LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

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Editorial Offices: 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1. Telephone: Whitehall 9351 (6 lines). Contributions on topical Local Government problems are invited and will receive careful consideration, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the safety of manuscripts submitted for his consideration. No payment will be made for contributions unless they are specially requested by the Editor. Authoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed. Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly. All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

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In Brief

Years of patience, endeavour and determination have been the means whereby one of N.A.L.G.O.'s great ideals —Compulsory Superannuation for all whole-time Local Government Officers— has now been realised.

Now that the Local Government Superannuation Acts, 1937, have appeared on the Statute Book, N.A.L.G.O. is proud of its great achievement.

The romantic story of the triumphs and set-backs in the struggle is narrated on pages 226 to 229.

A survey of the new Acts and their effect on sections of the local government community forms the leading article for this month.

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A party of those interested in local government has sailed for Canada to study public administration in the New World. The full story will be given next month, but a photograph and the comments of several Members of Parliament are given in the present issue.

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Comparatively few are aware of the delights of a Summer School. Lectures by first-class speakers; happy jaunts to places of interest to illustrate the lectures; evenings when you have time to explore the locality and "the informal discussions about all things in heaven and earth up to all hours of night and morning amongst a few friends"—these are the delights that stay sweet in the memory yet are arranged with serious regard to the future.

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What developments in local government areas will the next few years see? Robert Williams, of Cardiff, gives his forecast on page 234 and is awarded two guineas by Sir Arthur Robinson.

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Swiss Holidays for 725 members (and friends) is Nalgo's latest success in the holiday department. A few impressions of a member of the Nalgo holiday party at Weggis, Switzerland, are published on page 232. Members are also reminded of the attractions of a holiday in the Alps during September.

"It is with pleasure we recall that the Bills, after passing through the usual stages, have now been placed on the Statute Book and superannuation becomes compulsory for all whole-time Local Government Officers."

A Great Achievement

The passing of the English and Scottish Local Government Superannuation Acts, which received Royal Assent on Friday, July 30, is indeed a great achievement and the crowning glory to many years' effort.

The First Approach

One of the early primary objectives of the Association was to secure superannuation for Local Government Officers. The first approach was made in 1911, but this brought forth a reply from the President of the Local Government Board that he was unable to hold out any hope of legislation on the subject and that he could not see any advantage in troubling a deputation to wait upon him. In 1914, however, the Rt. Hon. Herbert Samuel, then President of the Local Government Board, received a deputation, and, having heard the Association's case, he promised to draw up a statement and communicate it to the organisations representing local authorities. This communication was issued but was completely overshadowed by the outbreak of war.

After the War

This world-wide upheaval put a stop for the time being to all negotiations, but in February, 1918, the Rt. Hon. Hayes Fisher, then President of the Local Government Board, said: "You have no difficulty in proving your preamble to me; it has indeed been proved long ago that superannuation provides, from the point of view of the employer, which is the public, as well as the employee, the best service in the interests of the employer." He promised to communicate at once with the respective associations of county councils, municipal corporations, and urban district councils, as he said, "to inform them that I have in mind the immediate—*not future*—setting up of a committee to examine the proposal." This interview and promise resulted in the setting up of a departmental committee during October, 1918. This committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Norman, reported (Cmd. 329) in favour of a national scheme of superannuation being established. Nothing further matured, notwithstanding the repeated applications of the Association, and eventually, during June, 1920, the Rt. Hon. Christopher Addison, M.D., Minister of Health, received a deputation from the Association, and in his reply said: "I cannot say that I am in the least surprised when you tell me in grave terms the unrest and dissatisfaction which exists. I entirely agree it is not a subject which needs further inquiries, we will get on without delay in drafting proposals on the subject. It is a matter which ought to have been dealt with before."

Further Delay

There was again further delay, and another deputation waited upon Dr. Addison during October, 1920, when he said to N.A.L.G.O. that he hoped that he had taken certain preliminary steps to fulfil his promise and that it was in the hands of the Parliamentary Drafting Office.

During December, 1920, Dr. Addison, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said: "The question of introducing a Bill on this subject will require further consideration in view of the charge which it would involve on the rates."

The Coming of the 1922 Act

Apart from the constant pressure which was maintained upon the official department concerned, nothing happened until July, 1921, when a meeting of Members of Parliament, convened by Mr. Neville Chamberlain, Sir R. Burton

Chadwick, Sir W. H. Prescott, Mr. J. R. Clynes, Mr. Arthur Henderson, and Mr. William Graham, was held in a committee room of the House of Commons, when over seventy Members were present. The general secretary of N.A.L.G.O. had to answer a volume of questions fired from right and left in every part of the committee room, and at the end, a unanimous resolution was passed, appointing a deputation from those Members of Parliament present to wait upon the Prime Minister and to ask him if it were the intention of the Government to introduce a Superannuation Bill and, if not, would the Government give facilities for a Private Member's Bill should it be introduced at an early date.

On August 11, 1921, Sir Alfred Mond, the Minister of Health, received a deputation of the Members of Parliament, and Mr. Neville Chamberlain, who acted as spokesman, referred to the recent meeting and said that it was one of the largest and most representative gatherings of Members of Parliament held within recent times. Sir Alfred Mond's reply was to the effect that there was no difference of opinions upon the principle, but that economic and other circumstances prevented the Government from taking action.

It was after this that N.A.L.G.O. decided to go all out for a Private Member's Bill. Fortunately, Sir Herbert Nield, K.C. (since deceased) who was among those to promise to introduce a Bill if he were favourably placed in the ballot for Private Members' Bills, secured first place in the ballot. Sir Herbert, however, flatly refused to introduce a compulsory Bill and the Bill, amended to meet the objections raised by Sir Herbert, was introduced on February 10, 1922, received second reading on April 7, passed into law on August 4, 1922, and, at 11.30 a.m. on that day, received Royal Assent. By noon, the House had risen and did not meet again until after a general election.

Events Leading to the 1937 Acts

Sir Henry Jackson attended the Association's annual conference in 1933, at which conference a resolution calling for further efforts to secure a national Superannuation Bill, approved in principle at the 1932 annual conference, was considered, Sir Henry recalled at that conference that he had introduced a bill to deal with the question of superannuation as affected by temporary reductions in salaries. Sir Henry also attended the 1934 conference and said that he then had with him a Bill which he had introduced for the purpose of amending the Local Government and Other Officers Superannuation Act, the two main principles of which were (a) compulsory superannuation, and (b) various amendments which were felt to be necessary in the light of experience.

Sir Henry actually introduced a Private Member's Bill but this met with opposition and it failed to secure a second reading.

Constant Pressure Since 1934

A Joint Committee, representing N.A.L.G.O., the four Associations of Local Authorities, and the T.U.C. General Council was set up in 1934 to prepare a draft Bill. On March 12, 1936, a deputation from that Committee attended at the Ministry of Health, when the Parliamentary Secretary announced that it was the intention of the Government to promote the desired legislation in the following Session. Two Superannuation Bills, one for England and Wales, and the other for Scotland, were introduced in May, 1937, and after passing through the usual stages it is with pleasure we recall that the Bills have now been placed on the statute book and superannuation becomes compulsory for all whole-time local government officers.

A Great Achievement

All those who have participated in this fight for superannuation of Local Government Officers must feel that this victory is one of the Association's outstanding achievements.

It is regrettable that three of N.A.L.G.O.'s greatest friends, Sir Herbert Nield, Mr. William Graham, and Sir Henry Jackson, have passed over and are not with us to participate in the victory.

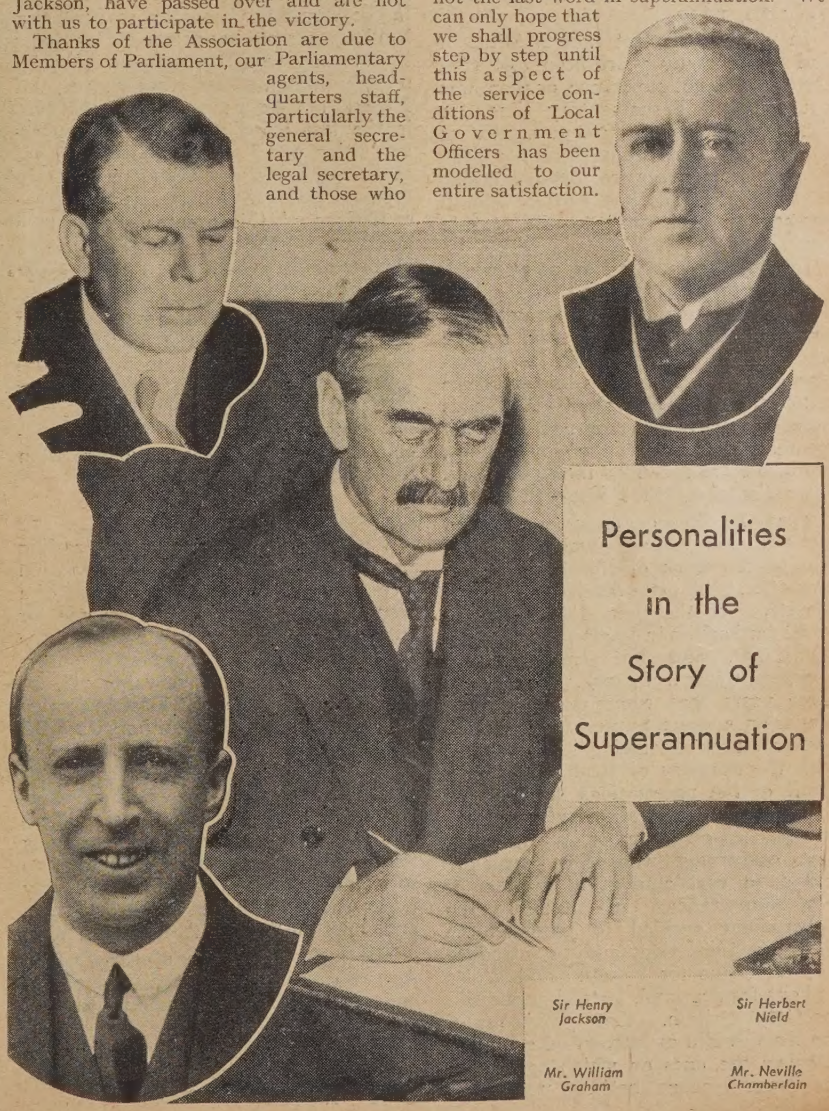
Thanks of the Association are due to Members of Parliament, our Parliamentary agents, headquarters staff, particularly the general secretary and the legal secretary, and those who have been striving for many years to attain this object.

Mr. Sam Lord of Acton has played a prominent part in the history of superannuation. It is fitting that he should have been chairman of the joint committee, for it was he who urged the National Executive Council in the early stages to secure the introduction of a Private Member's Bill and furthered the cause of superannuation in the face of much opposition. We have fought and won, and members jointly will welcome the success of this long and arduous fight.

The burden has for many years been borne by N.A.L.G.O., but here is an admirable example of the old adage—"it's dogged as does it." But we must not be content to rest on our laurels.

Not the Last Word

In order to secure agreement on general principles, and to secure the passage of the compulsory measure during the present Session of Parliament, it has been necessary for us to abandon a number of points which we should have liked to see incorporated in the new Act. The Minister of Health himself has said that this Act is not the last word in superannuation. We can only hope that we shall progress step by step until this aspect of the service conditions of Local Government Officers has been modelled to our entire satisfaction.



Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937

Local Government Superannuation (Scotland) Act, 1937

By the Legal Secretary

THE English Bill was introduced in the House of Commons on May 4, 1937, and was followed by the introduction of the Scottish Bill the next day.

The Bills met with no opposition and received so little criticism that they rapidly passed through all the Parliamentary stages and received the Royal Assent on July 30, 1937.

In view of the fact that N.A.L.G.O. had for so many years been told that the time was not opportune, or there was not sufficient Parliamentary time, for dealing with so important a matter as compulsory superannuation for the local government service, it is remarkable that the two Bills had such a smooth passage on their way to the statute book.

Indeed, the only major point which gave rise to criticism was that the Bills did not go far enough and bring within the compulsory superannuation scheme whole-time servants as well as whole-time officers. Apart from this and some criticism on a few minor matters the Bills were warmly welcomed not only by members who support the Government, but also by members on the Labour and Liberal benches in the House of Commons.

That the Bills on their introduction met with so much approval was largely due to the work of the Joint Superannuation Committee consisting of representatives of the four Associations of Local Authorities in England and Wales, N.A.L.G.O. and the Trades Union Congress General Council. For nearly three years that committee had been preparing a draft Superannuation Bill, and had been discussing its provisions with the Ministry of Health, and as a result of the negotiations between the committee and the Ministry agreement was reached on all major issues, except that concerning whole-time servants, and on a vast amount of matters of less importance. Eventually, the Government decided to promote the necessary legislation, and to introduce two Bills, one for England and Wales and one for Scotland, instead of one Bill for Great Britain. The provisions of the English Bill as introduced generally followed the lines on which agreement had been reached between the Joint Superannuation Committee and the Ministry. Except for certain special provisions which were necessary for Scotland, the Scottish Bill was practically identical with the English Bill.

At every possible stage of each Bill efforts were made to secure the extension of the principle of compulsory superannuation to whole-time servants, but without success. It is, however, interesting to record that the Minister of Health, in resisting an amendment of the English Bill designed to make whole-time servants compulsorily superannuable moved during the Committee stage in the House of Commons, said: "Our local government has proceeded by stages in this country. It has gone step by step, building up that great system, and I would not for a moment say that this is the last word as far as the superannuation conditions of the service are concerned. We are taking a big step forward this morning in improving the conditions of this great body of men and women, who certainly deserve well of the country in relation to this important service."

Another important factor in securing a smooth passage for the Bills was that every Member of Parliament who did put down an amendment was obviously anxious that nothing should be done to imperil the chances of the Bills becoming law during the present Session of Parliament.

Outstanding Provisions

What are the most outstanding provisions of the new Superannuation Acts? They are the establishment of a compulsory superannuation scheme for whole-time officers, the extension of the transfer value system whereby superannuable officers and servants will be able to move from one local authority to another (including authorities with a local Act superannuation scheme, referred to as "local Act authorities") without any loss of service for superannuation purposes, and the simplification of the machinery for bringing servants and part-time officers into superannuation. The appointed day under the English Act is April 1, 1939, and under the Scottish Act, May 16, 1939.

The main provisions of the English Act, which repeals the Local Government and other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, are as follows:

Part I deals with the superannuation of employees of local authorities not being local Act authorities.

Superannuation Funds

A superannuation fund is to be maintained by the council of every county, county borough, and metropolitan borough; by the council of every non-county borough, urban district and rural district having six months before the appointed day not less than one hundred superannuable employees; by every other local authority who have adopted the Superannuation Act of 1922; and by every joint committee established by a combination scheme under the last-mentioned Act.

A local authority required to maintain a superannuation fund is to be known as an "administering authority."

Generally speaking, the employees of other local authorities will contribute to the superannuation fund of the county or county borough within which the area of the employing authority, or the greater part of such area, is situate.

Contributory Employees

The employees entitled to participate in the benefits of the appropriate superannuation fund are to be known as "contributory employees," and in addition to whole-time officers, the following (amongst others) will be contributory employees:

Servants and part-time officers whom the employing authority decide to be contributory employees—for this purpose only a resolution of the authority passed by a bare majority is necessary.

Registration officers *i.e.*, superintendent registrars and registrars of births and deaths, and persons appointed by a local authority to act as deputy superintendent registrar or deputy registrar of births and deaths.

Poor law employees who were transferred under the Local Government Act, 1929, and rating employees who were transferred under the Rating and Valuation Act, 1925, being in each case at the time of transfer subject to the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896.

Every other person who immediately before the appointed day was subject to the Act of 1922.

Whole-time officers employed in a temporary capacity will not become compulsorily superannuable until they have completed two years' local government service.

Contributions

The rate of contribution payable by officers and servants to whom before the appointed day the Act of 1922 applied

remains at 5 per cent. But owing to the fall in interest rates earned by superannuation funds, the contribution payable in the case of officers brought into the superannuation scheme for the first time by Part I of the new Act is increased to 6 per cent. The contribution of servants who are new entrants is 5 per cent.

The chief reason for the difference between the rates of contribution of officers (new entrants) and servants is that the superannuation allowance is calculated on the average remuneration for the last five years of service, and whereas an officer's remuneration is generally at its peak during those years, the servant receives wages which soon reach their maximum and remain at the same level for many years.

Poor law employees transferred under the Local Government Act, 1929, and rating employees transferred under the Rating and Valuation Act, 1925, who before transfer were subject to the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896, will pay contributions at the rate of 2½, 3, or 3½ per cent., according to their length of service.

Except in the case of a contributory employee who has attained the age of 65 or who immediately before becoming such an employee was exempted from contributing under the Act of 1922 because he was 55 years of age or over on becoming subject to that Act, a contributory employee who is over 55 at the appointed day will be required to contribute, provided that before he attains the age of compulsory retirement he can complete ten years' service. Therefore, an employee aged 59 at the appointed day who before that day has had, say, 20 years' service, will, on retirement at age 65, be entitled to a superannuation allowance at the rate of 20-120ths, plus 5-60ths.

If in consequence of his incapacity to continue to discharge efficiently the duties of his post, a contributory employee is transferred to another post at a reduced remuneration, or otherwise suffers a reduction of remuneration, he is entitled to contribute to the superannuation fund the like amount as if his remuneration had not been reduced. An employee whose remuneration is suspended altogether by reason of absence from duty owing to ill health or injury will not be required to contribute during such absence. As will be seen later, in each of the two last-mentioned cases the superannuation allowance will be calculated on the remuneration which the employee would have received during his last five years' service but for the reduction or suspension.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Kingsley Wood, M.P. (left), and the Rt. Hon. Walter Elliot, M.C., M.P., who were responsible respectively for piloting the English and Scottish Bills through Parliament

Eligibility for Superannuation and Scale of Allowances

The conditions for the receipt of a superannuation allowance and the scale of allowances prescribed by the Act of 1922 are continued with some valuable additions. An employee can increase the allowance for non-contributing service from 120ths to any fraction up to 60ths on payment of a sum or sums to be prescribed. More than 40 years' service can be reckoned provided the superannuation allowance does not exceed two-thirds of the average remuneration, e.g., an employee with 25 years' non-contributing service and 20 years' contributing service will be entitled to an allowance of 25-120ths and 20-60ths.

In the case of an employee who is transferred to another post at a reduced remuneration or otherwise suffers a reduction of remuneration in consequence of his incapacity to continue to discharge his duties efficiently, or whose remuneration is reduced or suspended through absence from duty owing to ill health or injury, his superannuation allowance is to be calculated on the average remuneration which he would have received during his last five years' service but for the reduction or suspension.

Periods of contributing and non-contributing service of less than one year are added together, and if the total amounts to or exceeds six months it is reckoned as a year of non-contributing service. This goes some way to remove the hardships which arise under the Act of 1922 in consequence of any period of contributing service of less than one year not being reckoned, and any period of non-contributing service of less than one year but more than six months being reckoned as a year of such service, with the result that an employee can now have as much as eleven months' contributing service and six months' non-contributing service which will not count for superannuation. Under the new Act such a period of seventeen months will be reckoned as a year of non-contributing service.

Pension for the Spouse of an Employee

The Minister of Health is empowered to make rules by which any contributory employee who becomes entitled to a superannuation allowance under Part I of the Act may surrender a part of that allowance not exceeding one-third to provide a pension for a surviving wife or husband.

Reckoning of Service

The new Act provides that the whole of a contributory employee's service with local authorities is to be reckoned for superannuation. It therefore confers great benefits upon many employees, such as those who are unable to reckon previous service for the purposes of the Act of 1922 because they had transferred from an authority who had not adopted that Act to a designated post under an authority who had adopted that Act, and those who as female nurses contracted out of the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896.

In addition, a local authority is empowered to determine that where a person before becoming a contributory employee had been for a continuous period of not less than three years in the employment of an officer of a local authority, and engaged wholly or mainly in the performance of duties relating to the functions of that authority, the whole or any part of that period shall be reckoned as non-contributing service.

Holders of Joint Appointments

The Act of 1922 contains no provisions relating to persons holding a joint appointment. The new Act provides that where one of the holders of a joint appointment ceases to hold his appointment and the appointment of the other is thereby determined, then that other, if he is a contributory employee and has attained the age of 50 or completed 20 years' service, shall be entitled to a superannuation allowance according to scale.

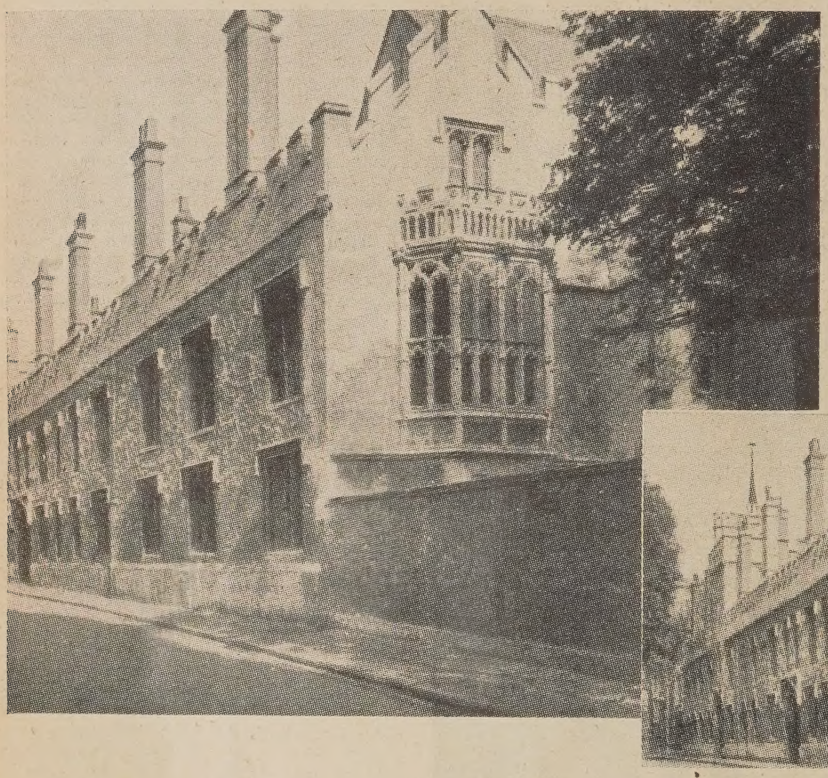
This provision does not, however, apply where a joint appointment of spouses is determined in consequence of the misconduct of one of them.

Female nurses, midwives and health visitors

The Departmental Committee on Superannuation who reported in 1928 recommended that for women nurses retirement

(*Continued on page 243*)

The Summer School at Oxford



The larger picture is a view of Lincoln College where the students who attended the Nalgo Oxford Summer School were housed.

Below—is a glimpse of the far end of the college. Beyond the turrets of the college tower, the spire of St. Mary's is just visible

THE Oxford Summer School was opened at dinner on July 17 by the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, A. D. Lindsay, Esq., M.A. Mr. W. W. Armitage, the President of N.A.L.G.O., presided, and in an inspiring address said that the Summer School movement was a part of our general educational policy designed to enhance the prestige of the Local Government Service and to ensure that the Service achieves the recognition which it merits. He said that the finest answer to critics of local government was to study public administration and to show how local government had been adapted to meet the needs of the community. Mr. Armitage expressed the hope that students would capture something of the University atmosphere during their stay in Lincoln College. The President expressed appreciation to the Rector and Fellows of Lincoln College for their kindness in placing at the Association's disposal facilities for holding the School, and he welcomed at the dinner representatives of local authorities' associations. Mr. Armitage referred also to the fact that many universities had now established diplomas in public administration, and said that it was gratifying that the Vice-Chancellor of the University should be present to open the 1937 Summer School. He said that there was no real need to introduce Mr. Lindsay to those present as his fame was almost international, and that we should regard the presence of so eminent a man as Mr. Lindsay as an inspiration and source of encouragement in our efforts to foster the desire for knowledge in local government officers. He then called upon the Vice-Chancellor formally to open the School.

The Vice-Chancellor, in his opening address, said that it was a great thing to see various summer schools held in Oxford, where representatives of all sorts of professions and businesses were organising summer schools to learn their own jobs better. He stressed the importance of informal talks, and said that in most of the Oxford colleges the students learned as much from informal talks with one another and their lecturers as they did from the lectures themselves. The most valuable thing about the summer school movement he said was the exchange of ideas with others from all parts of the country. He pointed out the danger of professional people getting into a rut, and said it was very difficult not to look at other people from one's own point of view. He stressed the importance of being "human," which he felt was particularly necessary in the case of local government officers who had direct contact with the public. In a delightful story he passed on the advice given to him by an old Oxford tutor who said that one should always try to be human, and that the best thing an official could do for his dignity was never to stand on it. The Vice-Chancellor then formally declared the school open.

The President of the Association, Mr. W. W. Armitage, then presented apologies for absence and best wishes for the success of the School from the late Mayor of Oxford, Miss I. Stansfield (National Executive Council), and Mr. C. A. W. Roberts, Vice-Chairman of the Association's Education Committee.

Alderman W. Hyde, Chairman of the County Public Assistance Committee, in welcoming the students to Oxford, made a pleasant speech, during the course of which he referred to the relative merits of Oxford and Cambridge. He said that after an inefficient local government officer, the greatest tragedy there could be in the local government service was the inefficient elected representative. On behalf of various local authorities he expressed the hope that the School would be successful.

Mr. E. G. F. Shrimpton, Clerk and Steward of Lincoln College, welcomed the students to the College.

Mr. J. Chaston, F.C.I.S., F.S.S., Chairman of the Association's Education Committee, thanked the Vice-Chancellor for his inspiring address, and also expressed appreciation of his kindness in opening the Summer School. Mr. Chaston also said how much the presence of Alderman Hyde was appreciated, and made amusing reference to the comments of Alderman Hyde with regard to the need for the education of elected representatives. Mr. Chaston thanked the President for his kind reference to his work as Chairman of the Education Committee and also added his personal congratulations to those expressed by the President to Mr. H. Slater, B.Sc. (Econ.), F.C.I.S., Education Secretary, for his work in organising the School.

Amongst those present at dinner were Mr. F. G. Scott, Clerk to the County Council, and Mrs. Scott; Mr. S. Bulman, representing the Urban District Councils Association; Mr. E. E. Skuce, M.A., City Librarian; Mr. A. R. K. Vaughan, representing the Rural District Councils Association; the Presidents, Secretaries, and Education Correspondents of the Oxford County and Oxford Borough Branches of N.A.L.G.O.

The Lectures

The lectures at the Oxford Summer School dealt with Planning in Local Government.

Three lectures on the Changing Structure of Local Government were delivered by Dr. Herman Finer, Reader in Public Administration at the University of London. Dr. Finer said that local government had come into being for the most vital services and would not serve the best ends if it were accepted as a truism that services were better administered simply because they were municipalised. He said that the local government system must not be regarded as a number of autonomous areas, and pointed out how the system had developed in a series of jerks, without any effort at planning, and traced the growth of the system as an historic product. In tracing the history of education, public health, and finance, he showed how these functions had become national in character. Dr. Finer then illustrated the advantages of a detailed analysis, and gave some examples of the effect of applying the "social microscope" to various services. He examined microscopically sections of the structure of local government, concluding by drawing attention to the improvements in transport and traffic, communications, and the change in space-time relationship.

Sir Gwilym Gibbon, C.B., C.B.E., B.A., D.Sc., late Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Health, delivered three lectures on the Theory and Practice of Planning, during the course of which he outlined the possibility of co-operation between companies and local authorities, and analysed the administration of trading undertakings and dealt with the problems connected with the location of industry. Drawing from a wealth of experience Sir Gwilym quoted instances to show cases in which planning might have been undertaken, and cases in which efforts had been made to plan. He also referred to the theory that the effects of a trade cycle might be minimised by the action of local authorities if the authorities planned their services. Sir Gwilym also dealt with town planning and increased traffic, and analysed the position in the special areas. He suggested that there was a need for general central control and that any planning should be under the guidance of a central body to avoid the conflict of interests between local authorities and private persons. Sir Gwilym urged the need for planning and outlined the method by which planners should be trained.

Mr. M. Arkin, the youthful Clerk to the Natanya Urban District Council, Palestine, who was an enthusiastic member of the School. He presented a cup for annual competition in singles tennis tournaments.

Mr. T. S. Simey, M.A., Lecturer in Public Administration, Liverpool University, completed the series of lectures in delivering three lectures on Planning Local Government from Within. Mr. Simey debated the question whether there was a real need for planning, and then having established a case in favour of planning in local government suggested the fields in which planning might be undertaken. He referred to the work of various local authorities, and with practical examples detailed the difficulties to be overcome and the pitfalls to be avoided, dealing with town planning, housing, transport. Mr. Simey then discussed the internal aspect of planning, from two points of view; (a) the preparation of the plan, and (b) the execution of the plan. He then dealt with the external aspect of planning and said that any plan must be of little use unless people were prepared to fall in with it, and urged the need for a better appreciation by the man in the street of the value of the work of local government.

At the conclusion of each group of lectures the students participated in interesting discussions of points raised during the course of the lectures.

On Wednesday afternoon Mr. W. J. Parry, A.I.M.T.A., of the City Treasurer's Department, Liverpool, attended the School, and in a short address emphasised the points in his essay which secured first prize in the Sir Arthur Robinson Prize Essay Competition, Class I. Sir Arthur Robinson, G.C.B., K.C.B., C.B., C.B.E., Chairman of the Supply Board and formerly Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Health, who kindly awarded prizes in connection with an essay competition as in previous years, said that the standard of the essays submitted was this year higher than in past years, and that he had selected the essay submitted by Mr. Parry as the winning essay. After a debate on the points raised in the essay, Sir Arthur summed up and said that he greatly appreciated the work done at the Summer School. Mr. L. Hill, C.B.E., M.A., General Secretary of N.A.L.G.O., thanked Sir Arthur for his attendance and said how pleased he was that Sir Arthur had continued his connection with the Association's Summer Schools. Sir Arthur then presented prizes awarded to students under the Association's Scholarships Scheme.

During the week, river parties were organised, tennis and table-tennis tournaments, and other social activities were arranged. Mr. M. Arkin, Clerk to the Natanya Urban District Council, Palestine, who is visiting this country to study local government in England, attended the School and presented a cup to the Summer School for competition in a singles tennis tournament. The cup was this year won by Mr. E. H. Mason of Manchester. On Friday evening an interesting social evening was arranged, and after an excellent conjuring performance by Mr. H. H. Saunders, a short scene from Shakespeare enacted by the students, songs and burlesques, the students indulged in community singing, and those present were privileged to enjoy a social evening characteristic of university life.

(Photo: Taylor)

The students assembled outside Lincoln College.

The Lake of Lucerne

Weggis, a typical lakeside village bathed in morning sunshine. In the distance are the summits of the Klewenalp and Stanserhorn. ● A section of the steep zigzag road in the Grimsell Pass. The white background is light reflected from the miles of ice in the Rhone Glacier. ● Snow-covered Pilatus in Spring, amid blossom on the cherry tree.

(Gyger)

(Sneider)

Central Switzerland

If you arrive at Lucerne a little travel-worn after an all-night wrestle with the pillow you hired at Ostend for 4 francs; if you stand on the threshold of the station with a half-hundredweight of luggage in each hand, it is not likely that you will be in the best mood for sightseeing. You will change your coupon for a railway and lake-steamer season ticket, dump your bags in the hold of the boat and pray for speed. Then you should go and stand on the fore-deck and feel the air on your face, and as the boat gathers speed feel the wind surge into your nostrils, tease your hair, and buzz in your ears. Stand there until you are purged of the stains of all-night travel, and then look around you.

There will be a large flag at the stern of the steamer; a white cross on a red ground. Only a little imagination is needed to transform it into a red cross on a white ground, and oneself into a convalescent recuperating from the neurotic infections of a mad metropolis and seeking new health in a new world. And as you stand at the prow and look across the smooth waters a mighty feeling seizes you—for a moment Cortes is reborn and gazes across the Pacific, and for an instant Wesley lives to feel again that strange warmth he knew.

"That's Pilatus," says somebody. "There's the Rigi, and there's the Burgenstock." This forms your introduction to the big shots of the district, but if you are wise you will follow up the introduction and make their further acquaintance.

Before long the boat is making straight for Weggis and to the accompaniment of much shouting and lassoing, she is made fast to the quayside. Then you rescue your luggage from the hold of the boat and pass through the gangway to meet the uniformed porter of the Hotel Du Lac, who takes your luggage and conducts you to the hotel where Madame is waiting with a welcome, eager to show you to your room—a beautiful room overlooking the lake, the embodiment of comfort, convenience and cleanliness.

Switzerland, like other hospitable countries, is a land of many peoples. The racial characteristics are best seen in the youth of the land before the stereo of passing years has pressed each face and left its mark.

You must be introduced

Meet Anna-Maria—jet hair, olive skin, and black crystal eyes, whose folk came up from the plains of Lombardy years before her grandmother was born.

Meet Marianne—rich in Swiss beauty, with flaxen hair, grey eyes, set wide, and clear complexion, whose folk dwelt in some high alpine village in the Engadine. Her smile is warm, her profile broad and generous. Her voice is strong, yet flexible and always true. Only such a voice can yodel effectively, for there is more in yodelling than meets the eye, so to speak. What reaches the ear is of more importance, for yodelling is not practised because it sounds clever nor because the Swiss want to be credited with originality, but for the yodeller's ability to throw the voice over great distances. It is a peculiar voice-culture, but efficient on the mountain slopes where rustling trees and falling torrents muffle the less vibrant sounds.

These girls are dressed in costumes typical of their own districts, but the pleated skirts, the embroidered bodice, the skull cap, and the thick boots are common to all.

The mountains, too, have individuality. Pilatus has the figure that one might expect of a mountain. Many ranges of mountains though giants in altitude have the appearance, when not covered in snow, of merely high-lying strata. Not so Pilatus, he has the shape as well the elevation of a mountain; pyramoid in contour, with firm-set lowlands of undulating grass terraces, giving place to forested uplands, capped by craggy peaks. He seems to set the pattern for his own people—wide chests, broad shoulders, and angular wavy heads.

From Vitznau, a sister town to Weggis, you proceed to the cogwheel station and there board a little open-air train, which is butted up a very steep incline to the summit of the Rigi by a small, bull-nosed engine; built up at the back and looking very much like an old lady with a big bustle.

The many excursions that can be made in this district from any of the lakeside villages recommended by N.A.L.G.O. should all be attempted. Many excursions (all those by lake steamer and railways) are included in the N.A.L.G.O. programmes. A lady, not in the N.A.L.G.O. party, was heard to complain that the trip to Engelberg and the Trübsee cost her 19 francs (about 18s. in English money) for fares alone, whereas the same trip cost the writer in all 1 franc 60 cents. and *that*—for two bottles of Apelwhein.

Engelberg is a small town in an Alpine valley. Approaching from Stans you pass Wolfenschiessen, the home of giants. The Swiss Guard in the Vatican is recruited from this village on account of the mighty stature of its menfolk. Arriving at Engelberg for lunch you find a convenient spot on the hillside for opening the lunch-box with which your hostess has provided you; too late to reflect sadly that you don't like Salame. English people often call it German sausage, but whatever you call it you may be comforted by the thought that this foreign "delicatessen" is now officially "verboten" at N.A.L.G.O. hotels. A steep cogwheel railway takes you up to the Gerschinalp, whence

the air cable railway swings across space to the Trübsee. The tinkle of bells floats up from the pastures below, as the cattle lowering their heads to champ the verdant grass, shake the cowbells hanging from their collars. Every bell is of a different pitch, and a merry little tune is played in honour of the visitor.

The Furka and Grimsell passes are the subject of special exaggeration by the proprietors of coaches. Not that they can overstate the grandeur of the mountains or the winding dizziness of the roads, but they *can* ascribe to their coaches, qualities which they do not possess. The first English words that these gentlemen learn are the superlatives.

The winding road in the Grimsell pass is shown on page 232. It took the writer some time to realise why the coach drivers "changed up" on the corners instead of "changing down," as in England. The reason is that the roads, though very steep, are level at the corners, giving the coaches a chance to gain some impetus before climbing again. The thrills of swinging round these mountain bends give you but little time to enjoy the scenery. Along roads cut through the snow you come to the Rhône Glacier, an inverted triangle of ice that noses its way to the source of an icy glacier stream. It will cost you 1 franc to visit the glacier and walk through a passage hewn out of solid ice. A strange twilight in this tunnel of ice gives a complexion of severe biliousness to every visitor until returning to the entrance again the daylight is reflected in pink streaks against the blue of semi-darkness.

Past Brunnen, through the Axenstrasse, a road bored through overhanging rock leads to Tellsplatte and Altdorf. This is a country rich in ancient lore, yet shadowed by recent tragedy. At Tellsplatte is a monument to the great William Tell, who defied the Austrian Gessler, and at Altdorf there is a tiny chapel which marks the spot where Queen Astrid of the Belgians met her death just two years ago. Unlike the Swiss folk and the mountains, the villages dotted round the lake are very similar to each other.

Weggis is typical of the lakeside villages and perhaps as beautiful as any. Its fine lido makes it popular with the holiday maker. In the evening you may promenade in the cool night air on your way to a concert at some neighbouring hotel or you may dance beneath the dim faery lights in the garden of Hôtel Poste with folk of many lands around you — Dutch, English, French, German and Swiss.

Lucerne is the hub of Central Switzerland. Here there is a fine market place where they sell all sorts of vegetables and fruit, especially cherries in summer. The market is under a stalwart canopy of stone so that the air is cool and the merchandise protected from the hot sun. Just visible is the tower which supports the ancient bridge built many years ago for the use of pedestrians, and decorated with illustrations of sacred history.

Lucerne is the best place to do your shopping, even if it only amounts to the purchase of an edelweiss brooch or a clasp decorated with gentians, those very blue flowers, like drops of Royal blood.

In the picture above there is a church, with twin spires which is visible from most places in Lucerne. As you mount the stairs that lead to the main entrance, push open the heavily carved door and tread the shiny stone aisle within, a rush of cool air meets you, which seems to be charged with a natural sanctity—the sanctity of the mountains. Then, stilly, above the shuffle of the worshippers as they come in and out, sounds the reedy note of an organ—a note that flows steadily and unhurriedly like the burning of a fuse—a note that mounts the scale, higher and higher in trembling climax to fall into an explosion of chords that dynamites the holy quiet, puts all thought to the sword, shatters half-finished prayers, and fills one's universe with a pulsating roar. A pause and it is gone, as quickly as it came, leaving in its place a brittle silence.

Then the peasant folk turn to the door, dip their fingers in holy water and cross themselves. Then the priest steps out of his confessional, and together they walk into the street.

J. C. S.

Many letters of appreciation which speak of the admirable arrangements made by N.A.L.G.O., for holidays in Switzerland, have been received at headquarters.

Here are a few extracts:

"I feel I have to write to thank you for the wonderful arrangements we—my friend and I—found had been made during our holiday at Lugano. I am sure we should not have enjoyed ourselves so much had we not booked our holidays through N.A.L.G.O. We have spent holidays abroad before, but have not encountered the same element of personal consideration as we had with you. Please do not forget to let us have any information regarding future ventures of N.A.L.G.O. abroad."

"It was a grand holiday and an education . . ." Sheffield.

"Unqualified approval of all arrangements made . . ." Bath.

"Every day of the holiday was one marvel after another . . ." Nottingham.

"Hand you a bouquet for the excellent arrangements made." Southwark.

"I feel I must write and thank you very sincerely for a most enjoyable holiday . . ." Chichester.

"Thank you for the excellent Swiss holiday arrangements. We had a very enjoyable time." London.

"Best holiday ever, from every point of view." London.

(Goetz) (Sneider)

Top left: An icy glacier stream rushing down to Engelberg. *Centre:* A member of the N.A.L.G.O. party standing by a cleft in the Rhone Glacier—awkward if he slipped. *Below:* The market in Lucerne. In the corner you can see Turm Tower, which supports the ancient wooden bridge. *Above:* The lake of Lucerne with the twin spires of the Hof Church and the Rigi in the distance. *Right:* A Swiss girl in festive array.

HAVE YOU TAKEN YOUR HOLIDAY **yet this year, or are you obliged to go in September? Why risk a wet holiday in England when glorious sunshine awaits you in Lugano? Southern Switzerland is at its best in the spring and autumn, when the sun, though brilliant has lost the fierce heat of midsummer. If you visit Lugano with N.A.L.G.O. this September you will enjoy the holiday of a lifetime. Parties will leave London every Saturday until the end of September.**

PROSPECTS!

for Local Government

In Great Britain we are accustomed to security. We expect life to be much the same to-morrow as it was yesterday. Even during a national emergency, like the last War, we boasted "Business as Usual." We do not like upheavals. We do not like wholesale changes in our institutions. Instead we like them to develop. Those Englishmen who have heard of the Witenagemot are proud to think that from it developed the Imperial Parliament. It is nice to realise that those Saxon worthies, the ealdormen, who fought flank to flank with Harold at Hastings, have their logical development in those (traditionally) portly gentlemen who grace the senior benches of our councils.

Psychologically, it would seem that Britons are evolutionists rather than revolutionists. We do not expect our local government to be changed suddenly by the decree of an autocrat. We expect it to develop. It is this attitude of mind which has given us the British Constitution, freedom of speech, liberty of the Press. It has also, incidentally, been responsible for a great deal of muddle—especially, one might say, in local government.

Let us assume that local government in Britain will continue to develop. This, of course, is no more than an assumption. A Fascist or Communist dictatorship is at least possible, and either would undoubtedly have a revolutionary effect upon our local government. For example, an authoritarian government would almost certainly remove every vestige of local control of education, and very probably highways, too. Let us assume, however, that local government will continue to develop in what most people would term the normal way.

Mr. Robert Williams

Mr. Williams, of the Town Clerk's Office, Cardiff, is the winner of the prize awarded by Sir Arthur Robinson. He is at present studying for the Law Degree of the London University, and holds the Diploma in Public Administration of that University. He is education correspondent for the Cardiff branch, and a member of the Executive Committee.

Development in Regard to Areas

The tendency in the past has been for local government areas to grow larger. For this, the scientific discoveries of the nineteenth century and the success of large scale organisation have been largely responsible. For example, the village police force, as typified by Constable Dogbery, was found inadequate for modern needs. Criminal technique has advanced and this has called for a corresponding advance in the police system, and so the parish constable has developed into the County Police Force. Again, in the electricity supply service, it was soon found that one large authority was more efficient than a number of small ones. A multitude of small highway authorities (the highway boards) became an intolerable nuisance, so they were abolished. The list of examples could be extended.

The tendency to larger areas in the past is clear enough and the general opinion is that the tendency will continue. Certainly the functions of local government will tend to be transferred to the larger authorities, but it is submitted that whether the areas of those authorities will be increased is extremely doubtful. If the legislature should decide to create an authority larger in size than the administrative county, it would have to be a regional authority. Such an authority would have many advantages. As it would be large enough to operate efficiently each of the services needed in the region, it would be superior to the present authorities. And as all the services would be under the control of a single council, it would be superior to the *ad hoc* authorities, which many people advocate as the solution of administrative difficulties. South Wales, for example, would make an admirable regional authority, as was stated in the report of the South Wales Regional Committee of the Ministry of Health in 1921. The Committee drew attention to the arbitrary and inconsequent boundaries of local authorities in that area, and suggested the setting up of a new type of local government authority somewhat on the lines of the London County Council, to deal with general matters in the area. The committee specified as functions which might be transferred to this regional authority, such matters as town planning, housing, education, traffic control, poor relief, hospitals, main drainage, bulk water supply, main roads and police. The proposals for Regional Authorities is certainly attractive. But is it practical politics? For example, what would be the reaction of the County Boroughs? In answer, one may note a significant fact. The suggestion of the South Wales Regional Committee was made sixteen years ago. It has not been acted upon yet.

The suggestion for a Regional Authority will be termed by many people Utopian (a term rightly despised by true Britons). The recommendations of the Regional Committee with regard to the areas of existing authorities in South Wales were, however, eminently sensible and practical. The committee's three most important conclusions in this respect were as follows:

1. The disadvantages of the present arrangements of local government in Wales were widely recognised, not only by the general public, but also by many councillors and officials.

2. The areas comprised within a valley or group of valleys offered as a general rule a convenient unit for administration. Yet the Rhymney Valley, for example, which would make an excellent unit of administration, was divided into six separate Urban Districts.

3. In re-distributing areas (where authorities are situated in valleys), hill-tops and not rivers should be taken as boundary lines.

It would be difficult to find fault with these conclusions. They would appeal to most people as practical. But although the recommendations were made sixteen

years ago, the Rhymney Valley is still divided into six separate areas of local government.

Local Authorities—to arms ?

That the existing areas of local government are considered unsatisfactory, not only in South Wales, but in England and Wales generally, is shown by the provision made in the Local Government Act 1929 for the periodical review of county areas. Yet the actual achievements in the way of re-arrangements and improvements have been small. It is not hard to find the reason for this. Local authorities are jealous. They suspect and distrust each other in a manner worthy of European politics. Suggest that a portion of Rumania be added to Hungary, and the Rumanians will fly to arms. Suggest that a portion of the area of authority A be added to that of authority B, and you arouse equally bitter emotions. Indeed, it is well that local authorities have no power to raise loans for the purchase of armaments, or boundaries in some parts might be marked by machine-gun nests.

It is difficult to get neighbouring authorities to work together. It is difficult to get county councils and county boroughs to work together. It is difficult to get the Association of Municipal Corporations and the County Councils Association to work together. Acts of Parliament are scattered with provisions for joint schemes between local authorities, but in practice such schemes are so rare as to be objects of wonder where they do exist. Town planning, essentially a matter for co-operation, hardly exists in any real sense in Great Britain, and in consquence we live in the untidiest country in Europe.

"Town planning, essentially a matter for co-operation, hardly exists in any real sense in Great Britain, and in consequence we live in the untidiest country in Europe."

Churches, dwelling houses, shops, factories, railway stations and goods yards clustered round the narrow, main thoroughfare of an important English town. A picture from the air.

"In the Racket."

Therefore, it seems to be of small use theorising as to future developments of areas of local government. Those who are in the "racket" (that expressive American term) have a foreboding that local government will continue to muddle along in the old way. The Rhymney Valley will continue to be divided between six different authorities for many years yet. It would be contrary to our notions of fair play to disturb any one of them. There is hope though. Perhaps some day a genius will succeed in distinguishing between the British love of fair play and a too zealous regard for vested interests.

Distribution of Powers Between Local Authorities.

The key to this question, like that of areas, lies in the economy of administering many local services over large areas. At the time of the 1931 census, there were 484 urban districts and 314 rural districts, with a population of less than 10,000; 312 urban districts and 191 rural districts had a rateable value below £25,000. It is therefore clear that by reason of lack of financial resources alone, many councils are not fitted to administer any but the most elementary services. Many councils do not engage a full-time clerk, not to mention a full-time medical officer of health, without whom health services cannot be efficiently administered. It seems likely therefore that the tendency in the future will be for the powers of the district councils to be curtailed and for those of the county councils to be correspondingly increased. It is unlikely, however, that this change will take place without the most strenuous opposition from the districts.

There are only two alternatives to this. The first is the formation of joint schemes by local authorities. Having regard to the general unwillingness of local authorities to co-operate, which has already been noticed, this possibility may be dismissed. The other alternative is the creation of *ad hoc* authorities. This would involve not merely the transfer of powers from the districts to the counties, but the removal of powers from the counties, and the county boroughs themselves. Already the Road Traffic Commissioners and the special electricity areas have superseded the ordinary areas of local government. It is therefore a possibility deserving of consideration.

Historically, the last hundred years have seen the suppression of a variety of *ad hoc* authorities culminating in the Local Government Act 1929, which marked the end of the Poor Laws Unions. Now, however, there is evidence of a tendency in the opposite direction. Technically, the *ad hoc* authority has great attractions. The most suitable areas for water supply, electricity supply and drainage, for example do not necessarily coincide, and the experts in each field would probably like to create their own areas. This gives the clue to the great disadvantage of the *ad hoc* authority—its tendency to disintegration. If the services now performed by local authorities were performed by a variety of *ad hoc* authorities whose areas did not coincide, the result would be confusion. The local council that repairs a road one week and pulls it up the next to lay a gas main already holds its place in the national gallery of humour, along with the aspidistra and the golfing parson. It is easy therefore to visualise the confusion that might arise where sewerage, gas, electricity, water, and highways were administered by distinct and entirely uncoordinated authorities. The *ad hoc* authority thus has disadvantages as well as advantages. Yet with the modern feeling that essentially large scale services demand larger areas than those of existing local authorities, it seems that certain local powers will be transferred either to regional or *ad hoc* authorities. Writers on the subject appear divided regarding the merits of the respective schemes. The present writer is of the opinion that the creation of regional authorities would be the better solution of the problem, but that such a scheme is unlikely to receive a trial. It would be too drastic and would arouse bitter opposition. On the other hand, the transfer of powers to *ad hoc* authorities has the great political advantage of proceeding piecemeal and so arousing less opposition.

It would seem, therefore, that the most likely line of development as regards the division of powers between local authorities is (a) that more and more powers will be transferred from the district councils to the county councils, and (b) that certain powers may be transferred from the existing authorities to specially created *ad hoc* authorities.

A prize of two guineas has been awarded by Sir Arthur Robinson, G.C.B., C.B.E., A.I.M.T.A., to Mr. Robert Williams, of the Town Clerk's Office, Cardiff, for an essay on the most probable lines of the future development of Local Government in this country in regard to (1) areas of Local Government, and (2) the division of powers between the various types of local authority and between local authorities as a whole and the state.

The competition was divided into two classes. This is the winning essay in Class 2.

Division of Powers Between Local Authorities and the State

The relationship between local authorities and the state is one which has to be decided in every country. The solution, in so-called authoritarian states such as Italy and Germany, is simple. The local authorities are merely agents for the central government. In democratic countries, however, where local authorities have a real, if limited, measure of freedom, the relationship is more complex. The English with their genius for compromise, have produced a solution of the problem which, while allowing scope for local initiative, provides the central government with adequate means for controlling policy. The means of control are numerous and diverse, and it is not necessary to catalogue them here. The key to the whole system is the financial control which the central government exercises by means of the grant in aid. Attendant upon this, are such important measures of control as the powers of inspection, audit and of approval of loans. This system for controlling the relationship between the central government and the local authorities may justly be claimed by the English as one of their most important contributions to the art of government. Speaking generally, it is accepted by all parties as satisfactory.

It is probable, therefore, that changes in the machinery governing the relationship between the state and the local authorities during the next few years, will be slight.

Government grants may grow larger, especially, it is to be hoped, to the distressed areas. That would mean some increase in governmental control because, as already hinted, the power of control and the power of the purse are to all intents and purposes synonymous. There is a possibility, too, that the central government may usurp some of the powers of local authorities. In many quarters, for example, it would be considered an improvement if the Ministry of Transport were to take over the entire administration of main roads, and it is possible to make out a case for state administration of other services at present administered locally. Should any such proposals be made, the authorities, through their associations, could be relied upon to oppose them strenuously. Oddly enough, in one case, that of public assistance, where the local authorities might be willing to relinquish their powers, the central government is not prepared to accept them.

It is, however, generally conceded that the existing services of local government are best administered locally. What local authorities have to fear, in fact, is not that the central government will endeavour to supersede them, but that their powers may be taken from them and handed to *ad hoc* authorities subject to strict central control.

Finally, it must not be forgotten that the unpredictable element enters into local government as into every other human activity. All (and they are many) who have filled in a football coupon, know how easily the defeat of Arsenal by a minor club will frustrate the most carefully considered efforts. It is the same in local government. He must needs be a prophet who can forecast its development for the next ten years. It is quite as difficult as a football pool—only you may win a fortune for the latter.

At Random

By "HYPERION"

COMFORT IS A VERY POOR STATE AFTER BUSYNESS.—*T. E. Lawrence.*

The Mace

Usually, when a member of a City Council runs away with the Mace, there is the utmost consternation, and all business is suspended. The hall seems empty without that well-known ornament, and life a hollow mockery. But Glasgow is made of sterner stuff. A member of the Glasgow City Council, "during a noisy debate," ran off with the Mace, "despite a hot pursuit by officials." But the meeting went on, and the symbol of thingamojig was returned.—*"Beachcomber" in the Daily Express.*

* * *

Anthology on Gentlemen

He had been bred, as they call it, a gentleman; that is, bred up to do nothing. —*Fielding.*

* * *

So strong was the contagion of good feeling that even Sir Edward Coke, for the first time in his life, behaved like a gentleman.—*Macaulay.*

* * *

When a man teaches something he does not know to somebody else—who has no aptitude for it—and gives him a certificate of proficiency, the latter has completed the education of a gentleman.—*George Bernard Shaw.*

* * *

"After all, you *are* a gentleman."

"I was born one, but I found grace."

—*Ronald Mackenzie.*

* * *

Summer Clothes for Mayors

Some one ought to design a summer outfit for civic dignitaries.

A dozen wretched mayors and sheriffs sweated on Southampton's broiling quay yesterday, heavily robed, while coolly-clad holiday-makers watched them walk to the opening of Britain's first Merchant Navy exhibition.—*William Hickey.*

* * *

Drowning Sorrow

From a Los Angeles paper:—

"GRIEF SERVICE. I will listen to your trouble morning, noon and night. Absolutely no charge. You buy the beer. Johnson Boswell. Phone No. W7——"

* * *

Overheard in the Train

(1) "He was *such* a nice man—more like a butcher than a doctor."

(2) "I hear that the Mormons no longer practise polygamy."

"Yes—thanks to my brother Charles."

(3) "Well, I don't like children, but I can't say that I'd ever be *unkind* to one."

* * *

Definition

CIVILISATION—A state of society in which it is possible for a book to be published entitled "Tap Dancing as a Career."—*Dublin Opinion.*

* * *

The greatest curse of the country is the almost unbelievable worship of "ye olde" things. The other day I saw "ye olde wireless shoppe."—H. G. Strauss, M.P.

* * *

My Typist

ShE tipESS Like tHis,
She cannot spell,
She can't count up to 3;
But O, she has such big blue eyes
She's just the type for me.

Point of View

The gentry were afraid that the railways would interfere with hunting, which, they were sure, was responsible for producing British prosperity and the Right Type of Englishman. (I noticed, the other day, a pleasant survival of this same sentiment, but brought up-to-date, in the following sentence from the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic*: "The future electrification of most of our railways, which we imagine is inevitable, is a matter which calls for the very gravest consideration. It may easily imperil the whole future of one of our greatest sports.")—*Osbert Sitwell.*

* * *

Anti-Recruiting Propaganda

"No more saluting those d——d officers," said a soldier who had just finished his time with the colours and was looking forward to his new civilian job.

"What is your new job?" a friend of mine asked him.

"A.A. scout, sir," he replied.

* * *

One-Act Drama

Phone bell in police station rings. Weary voice says: "Do you know where Miss Pottykins, the uplift lady, lives? There's been a burglar in her house for two hours, and she's been talking uplift to him. Can you send at once and get him?"

"Right. We'll send at once. Is that Miss Pottykins speaking?"

"No; it's the burglar."

* * *

An Eccentric

Mary Raines, a very singular spinster, possessed of good property, resides in this parish, and now milks a cow that's never had a calf for ten years. She never associates with any one, never washes her face, and has not lain on her bed nor had a fire in her house during the last four years.—*From "White's History of Leicestershire." (Waltham-on-the-Wolde.)*

* * *

A Very Special Heaven

Charles used to say that Lord Devon knew only two forms of happiness: reading the Holy Office, and attending the Board of Guardians.

"I know one thing troubles you in respect of Heaven," Charles told him. "It is that there are no Boards of Guardians there. But, dearest Lord Devon, I am sure that a Board will be created in some planet, with celestial paupers for you to relieve."—*From "The Life of Lord Halifax."*

* * *

"If You See What I Mean!"

"I don't know what Lord Devon du," said a man proposing his health at a local dinner; "but all I du know is, if more would du as Lord Devon du du, there wouldn't be so many as would du as they du du."—*"Ibid."*

* * *

The Same Story

1870: "No prudent man will now venture a walk in London streets unless his will is made, his affairs in order, and a card-case is in his pocket that he may be identified. No adequate precautions are taken and no punishment follows."—*From "Short Stories," by Froude.*

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North Eastern and Yorkshire Districts : W. Cecil Wood, 12, East Parade, Leeds. Telephone : Leeds 24861.

East Midland, West Midland and South Wales Districts : J. E. N. Davis, Prudential Buildings, St. Philip's Place, Birmingham, 3. Telephone : Central 1836.

South Eastern, Southern and South Western Districts : F. Thomas, Room 60, Somerset House, Reading. Telephone : Reading 3880.

Scottish District : J. M. Mortimer, 67, West Nile Street, Glasgow, C.1. Telephone : Douglas 404.

Now that summer is drawing to a close and (we hope) the best weather is about to commence, members who will be taking their holidays should make sure that they have the following articles of apparel—in N.A.L.G.O. colours, of course :

Blazer	1st quality	28/6
	2nd „	23/6
	(1/6 extra if made to measure)	
Slip-on	Grey	7/-
	White	8/-
Swim-suit	Dark Blue	10/-
Ties ..	All silk	2/9
	Uncrushable silk ..	3/6

An illustrated colours price list may be obtained upon request from the Special Activities Department, N.A.L.G.O., 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

The following circulars have been remitted to branch officers :

JULY 28

64/ORG/37

(To each branch secretary.)

Enclosing a form upon which to record the changes in branch membership occurring between May 1 and July 31, and requesting the return of the completed forms to headquarters as soon as possible after the end of July.

65/GEN/37

(To each branch secretary.)

A reminder that the Sir Henry Jackson Memorial Fund is still open and stating where donations should be sent.

COST OF LIVING

Below we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the cost-of-living index for the past six months : March, 51 ; April, 51 ; May, 52 ; June, 52 ; July, 55 ; August, 55. The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the index figure is based are as follow :

	June	July	Aug.
Food	36	40	40
Rent	59	59	59
Clothing	105	105	105
Fuel and Light ..	75	75	75
Other items ..	75	75	75

IMPORTANT DATE

September 29.—Renewal premiums due on "N.A.L.G.O." Household Insurance Comprehensive Bonus Policies.

Have you taken your holiday yet? Have you considered Lugano in Southern Switzerland as a suitable resort ?

Did you know that September is the best time of the year to visit Lugano ?

Did you know that N.A.L.G.O. parties were leaving London on 11th, 18th and 25th September for Lugano ?

"A Century of Municipal Progress"

£1. 1. 0

Members who have not already done so may still obtain this book. A copy of this volume should be in the library of every local government administrator, be he councillor or official.

Read what Sidney Webb says :—

"must imperatively be read by every local government officer, high or low, as the indispensable basis of his professional culture."

To The General Secretary, N.A.L.G.O., 24, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1

Send .... copy(ies) of "A Century of Municipal Progress," for which I enclose a remittance for

£ : :

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Salaries and Service Conditions

Salaries

A formal application for the adoption of a Salaries and Grading Scheme based on the recommendations of the **West Riding** Joint Council has been forwarded by the Divisional Secretary to the Hoyland Nether Urban District Council on behalf of the staff.

The **Croydon** County Borough Council has amended the rates of pay in respect of Women Shorthand-Typists and Secretaries, which are now as follows :

Grade A. Women Shorthand Typists—£110 to £150 per annum by annual increments of £10.

Grade B. Women Shorthand Typists—£160 to £180 per annum by annual increments of £10.

Grade C. Senior Women Shorthand Typists and Secretaries—£190 to £220 per annum by increments of £10 according to merit and as recommended by the Establishment Committee from time to time.

As a result of representations the **Ealing** Borough Council has agreed to improvements in the junior and clerical staff scales of pay. Juniors at age 15 are to commence at £50 a year, rising by annual increments of £10 to £100 at age 20.

The following scales have also been agreed :

Grade A. Males—£115 by £15 to £160.

Grade A1. Females. £115 by £10 to £160.

Grade B. Males—£170 by £15 to £240.

Service Conditions

Shrewsbury. A Staff Joint Consultative Committee was set up by the council on May 11, 1936, for the purpose of " the establishment of regular methods of consultation between the Council and its staff on matters relating to the Local Government Service." Several meetings of the Committee have been held during the succeeding twelve months, and among the recommendations of the Committee which have been adopted by the Council is a decision to increase the tea allowance to officers who are detained on corporation business for not less than two hours after normal office hours ; and a decision to replace the fortnight's annual holiday now allowed to all staffs, apart from chief officers and nurses, by the following graduated scale, which is to come into operation in 1938 :

Officers in receipt of salaries in accordance with	Annual Holiday
Grade A (£40-£80) Grade B (£100-£160)	12 working days
Grade C (£170-£200) Grade D (£210-£250)	14 „ „
Grade E (£260-£300)	16 „ „
Special Grade and Deputies	18 „ „
Nurses	3 weeks (as at present)
Women Clerks	According to salary based on grades above.

Smethwick. The Council has obtained a Certificate of Exemption from the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1935, to take effect from August 16, 1937, for officers and servants.

* * *

Peterborough. The Council has decided, after receiving an application from the Branch, to grant leave of absence for all members of the staff on one Thursday afternoon in August for a staff outing.

Whitleyism

At a meeting of the **West Riding Joint Council** held at Leeds on July 22, 1937, the staff side brought forward a recommendation regarding an extension of the Council's area to cover the whole of Yorkshire, excluding the Cleveland District. It was reported that consultations had taken place with representatives of the staffs employed by authorities in the East and North Ridings, and that a general desire had been expressed for the setting up of Whitley machinery. The alternatives of a separate council or the extension of the existing West Riding Joint Council had been considered, and it was generally agreed that the situation could best be met by adopting the latter. Accordingly, the staff side suggested that the employing authorities might now be approached, and after lengthy discussion the matter was referred to the Executive Committee for consideration and report.

* * *

The **Chester City Council** have recently approached the Whitley Council for advice on the salary of the Baths Superintendent at the Chester Baths, and the recommendations of the Whitley Council have been accepted by the corporation.

* * *

Following a request from the **Colwyn Bay Corporation,** the North Wales Whitley Council have submitted a model grading scheme on the lines of the North Wales Whitley Council Scales, and at the last meeting of the council the scheme was adopted.

* * *

South Wales Whitley Council

On the invitation of Sir Herbert Hiles, M.B.E., J.P., Lord Mayor of Cardiff, a conference representative of the majority of the local authorities in South Wales was held at the City Hall, Cardiff, on July 23, 1937.

An explanation of the Whitley scheme was given by the representative of the Ministry of Labour, Councillor T. Parry (Mayor of Colwyn Bay), and officials of the Whitley Council.

After a full discussion, it was agreed that a report of the conference, together with details of the constitution and working of existing Provincial Whitley Councils, should be sent to each local authority in the area, and a further conference convened.

A provisional date for this conference has been fixed, namely September 24, 1937.

Superannuation

The employees of the **Tees Valley** Water Board have been admitted to the scheme of the Middlesbrough Corporation, the Appointed Day being August 13, 1937.

Spenborough Urban District Council has passed the First Resolution by the statutory majority, and, subject to confirmation, the Appointed Day will be October 1, 1937.

The **Bourne** Urban District Council has obtained an Actuarial Report, and has decided to take the necessary steps to adopt the 1922 Act.

An Actuarial Report is being obtained by the **Eastwood** Urban District Council.

The **Warsop** Urban District Council has decided to seek admission to the Notts Local Authorities Joint Superannuation Scheme as from January 1, 1938.

Following an application by the **Chesterfield** Branch that the Council should establish a minimum superannuation allowance of 30s. per week for superannuated officers, the Council has agreed that the allowances at present being paid to four superannuated officers should be increased to this amount from July 1, 1937.

SOUTH-EASTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE

The summer meeting of the South-Eastern District Committee was held at the Town Hall, Brighton, on Saturday, July 3rd. **Mr. W. A. N. Baker** presided, and there were 52 other members present. In the absence of the Hon. Secretary (Mr. F. A. Bristow), **Mr. F. Thomas** acted as Secretary, and it was agreed that the Chairman should write to Mr. Bristow expressing the Committee's sympathy with him on the death of his son.

The circulars from the General Secretary regarding the new constitution of the B. & O. Fund were referred to the executive committee. Mr. Baker presented the minutes of the B. & O. Regional Committee and in reply to a question stated that although no cases had been refused or reduced by reason of lack of funds, he stressed the point that some might have been given more generous treatment if the subscriptions had been larger.

The report of the first meeting of the new Area Education Committee was approved, Mr. Young expressing the view that the District Committee should link up with the Workers Educational Association and consider summer and week-end schools.

Mr. W. H. Routly and **Mr. H. J. Altoun** reported their impressions of the Margate Conference, Mr. Bristow's report being read in his absence.

The Sports Secretary (Mr. W. A. N. Baker) reported that the sports events were proceeding very satisfactorily. The golf competition was won by Mr. Ward (Kent C.O.) with a net score of 67.

Mr. Baker and Mr. Altoun reported on the work of the N.E.C. which had been mainly concerned during the past few months with the passage of the Compulsory Superannuation Bills which have now become law.

After the meeting the delegates were entertained to luncheon at the Royal Albion Hotel by the Mayor of Brighton (Councillor J. Routley, J.P.). The sincere thanks of the Committee were expressed to Mr. Routley for his hospitality and also to the Mayor and Corporation of Brighton for allowing the use of the Council Chamber for the meeting.

Some of the N.A.L.G.O. party who sailed for Canada recently, photographed on board the Cunard White Star Liner "Andania" before leaving Liverpool. They travelled through to New York, returning in the "Britannic."

The Nalgo Educational Tour

to Canada and New York

"The rest of the world accepts, as a matter of course, the fact that Great Britain has the finest type of permanent civil servant to carry on the real work of administration with smooth and unbroken efficiency," comments **J. W. Banfield, Member of Parliament for Wednesbury.** "Governments come and go; some are good, some not so good. But the British Civil Service remains to safeguard that element of continuity which perhaps distinguishes our history from that of all other nations.

"I wonder if we ourselves realise that in Local Government all over the country, in thousands of administrative centres, from great cities and bustling, prosperous boroughs to tiny rural district councils, there is a 'civil service'—the quotation marks seem hardly to be necessary—which is carrying on, with the same integrity and efficiency, work every whit as important, in its sphere, as that of Whitehall?

"The party of municipal officials from various districts in the United Kingdom now on its way to visit Canada and the United States will be received with every mark of democratic distinction. They will hear expressions of admiration for the standards which they impose upon themselves and which we all too complacently expect. Might we not, just for a change, turn from our national privilege of grumbling and express to our local 'civil service,' something of the esteem in which their devoted work is held?"

What three Members of Parliament think

"Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, and New York are about to welcome with all civic courtesies a party of British officials belonging to a 'Civil Service,' observes **John R. Remer, M.P. for Macclesfield,** "a service not less able and distinguished than Whitehall, though lacking that glamour of Whitehall's centralised habitation and history.

"But the high officials of the Ministry of Health, the Board of Education, the Home Office, all have reason to know how ably the municipalities of the United Kingdom are staffed, and with what devotion they are served. The visitors invited to cross the Atlantic include Town Clerks, Borough Treasurers, City Architects, Borough Engineers, and so forth. They are men who bring rare qualities to the public service, and carry out their local tasks with an integrity which enhances the British name and fame abroad.

In the United States the lack of trained personnel in municipal administration has proved to be one of the difficulties exposed by the great depression. Our local traditions are envied by other countries, and I feel that we should from time to time take occasion to give thanks for our blessings."

Daniel Hopkin, M.P. for Carmarthen, declares that whilst it is true to say that day by day the scope and responsibility of the work of the Civil Service increases, it is even more true in the case of local administration. The growth in weight of duties imposed upon our municipalities almost takes the breath away.

If Charles Dickens were alive to-day he would rejoice not only in the ampler amenities and sweeter streets, but also in the humaner spirit which animates the administration. He would have seen the death of Mr. Bumble. Our local authorities large and small, are advised and inspired by men of signal capacity and devotion, whose efficiency we are inclined to take for granted. Their work touches national as well as local affairs.

What other nations think of our good fortune in having such a magnificent "second Civil Service" at call is made plain by the fact that great cities in the New World are giving official welcome and hospitality to a company of municipal administrators from this country. These men have gone to see civic problems and enterprises at first hand, and their colleagues in Canada and America are keen to hold conference with them and learn from them.

Praise falls sweetly on the ear when it falls rarely. These visitors will hear their praises sung loudly enough on their transatlantic trip, and characteristically will accept it as a tribute to their country rather than to themselves.

Diploma in Public Administration

Members will be interested to learn that a Diploma in Public Administration has been established under the auspices of the University Extension and Tutorial Classes Council of the University of London.

Special attention is drawn to the fact that whilst candidates for the External Diploma in Public Administration of the University of London are required to have matriculated in London University, candidates for the Diploma awarded by the University Extension and Tutorial Classes Council may be admitted if they have obtained some other qualification recognised by the University as equivalent to a School Certificate or have submitted evidence of general education to satisfy the University Extension and Tutorial Classes Council as to their suitability to be entered for the examination.

Extracts from the regulations relating to this Diploma are published below:

"The University grants a Diploma in Public Administration to candidates who, not having matriculated, have qualified for a School Certificate, or have obtained some other qualification recognised by the University as equivalent for this purpose, or have submitted other evidence of general education to satisfy the University Extension and Tutorial Classes Council as to their suitability to be entered for the Examination.

Before entering for the Examination, candidates for the Diploma shall be not less than eighteen years of age, and must have held for at least two years an approved appointment on the staff of a Public Office recognised by the University Extension and Tutorial Classes Council for the purpose.

Every candidate will be required to submit particulars of his qualifications for admission to the Examination in order that he may be registered as an approved candidate, and must complete the Registration Form supplied for the purpose. The form, accompanied in each case by the documents required in connexion therewith, and by a registration fee of One Guinea, must reach the University Extension Registrar not less than six months before the last date of entry to the Examination.

(*Note.*—The payment of the registration fee does not constitute entry to the Examination.)

The Examination for the Diploma will be divided into two Parts, both of which must be taken. Candidates may enter for each Part separately, or for both Parts at the same time, but will not be allowed to proceed to Part II until they have satisfied the Examiners in Part I.

The Examination will be in the following subjects:

Part I—Compulsory Subjects.

1. Public Administration, Central and Local.
2. Economics (including Public Finance).
3. Social and Political Theory.

Part II—Optional Subjects.

Group A.

4. English Constitutional Law.
5. English Economic and Social History since 1760.
6. The Constitutional History of Great Britain since 1660.

Group B.

7. Statistics.
8. The History and Principles of Local Government.
9. Social Administration.

Candidates will be required to pass in Part I and in Part II in three of the subjects (4) to (9), at least one of which must be selected from each group.

The Examination for the Diploma is held

(*Continued at foot of next column*)

Scottish Notes

These "Notes" are being written in the middle of August from the far north, where the writer is on holiday. Not having the necessary data at hand, they may be somewhat scrappy. They will contain only the outstanding happenings since the last "notes" were written.

Scottish members will be interested to learn that the Local Government Superannuation (Scotland) Bill received the Royal Assent on the 30th July. The provisions of the Scottish Act are very similar to those of the English Act, and a comprehensive article on the new law relating to superannuation will be found on pages 228-229 of this issue.

Kilmarnock

Following an interview which the Divisional Secretary had with the Finance Committee of Kilmarnock Town Council in May last, official intimation has been received that our application for a revision of the Salary Scales on behalf of the male members of the staff was approved by the Council at their meeting on July 14 last, the revised Scales to be adopted as from May 15 last. This means a considerable improvement in staff salaries, particularly for the junior members of the staff. The increments have been increased in most Grades from £10 to £13 and in one Grade from £10 to £15. At the same meeting of the Council, the chief officials' salaries were also dealt with, and substantial increases were granted to the Town Clerk, Town Chamberlain, Medical Officer and Burgh Surveyor.

Whitley Council

The difficulty in getting this Council to function has been with the County Councils. We have now, however, got over this difficulty, four County Councils, viz., Ayr, Dumbarton, East Lothian and Roxburgh having appointed representatives to the Council. The Council is now fully constituted, and we are in a position to proceed with the business. It was hoped to have the first meeting in the last week of July, but this was found impracticable. Several of the representatives were on holiday at the time, and it was felt that if an attempt was made to hold the meeting it might prove abortive. It has now been arranged to hold the first meeting in September.

Superannuation

An interesting point has arisen with reference to the right of a person receiving compensation to receive also a superannuation allowance. Paragraph 7 of the Second Schedule of the Rating (Scotland) Act, 1926, which is incorporated with the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1929, for compensation purposes, provides that "no officer or servant shall be entitled to receive both compensation for pecuniary loss and a superannuation or retiring allowance in respect of the same period of service and the same pecuniary loss." It is argued that this provision applies only in the case where an official's office was abolished and at the time of his leaving the Service he was qualified to receive both compensation and superannuation. In a case, however, where such an alternative did not arise at the time, the provision does not apply. The opinion of counsel is being obtained on the subject and we hope to be in a position to publish this interesting opinion in our next issue.

Annual Sports Day

We would again remind our Scottish members that the Annual Sports Day takes place on September 11. The venue this year is Perth, and York House is to be our centre in the city. There will be the usual contests for Bowling, Golf and Tennis. Full particulars were published in last month's issue, but we wish to emphasise the fact that these competitions are open to all our members, **for it would appear that some members at least have been under the erroneous impression that the contests are for members of the Scottish Council only.** Those who desire to enter, and have not done so, should communicate at once with the Sports Secretary, Mr. S. H. Brodie, City Assessor's Office, 40, Cochrane Street, Glasgow, C.1.

Home Nursing for All

Florence Nightingale, in a letter to "The Times," quoted an old woman as saying: "They nurses is real blessings; now husbands and fathers did ought to pay a penny per week, as 'ud give us a right to call upon they nurses when we wants they." "This," Miss Nightingale added, "is the real spirit of the thing . . . and some day, let us hope that the old woman's sensible plan will be carried out." That day has now arrived, for, thanks to the formation of the Greater London Provident Scheme for District Nursing, it is possible to secure the services of a nurse for a whole family at the basic rate of one halfpenny a week. The scheme completes the provident system of which the National Health Insurance Act and the Hospital Saving Association are the most important existing elements. It follows, so far as London is concerned, the successful pioneering work in Leicester and Rochdale; but in London it will serve the additional purpose of co-ordinating the efforts of some 150 independent nursing associations, not the least of whose difficulties is the constant movement of population from one area to another. Thus it will be possible very soon to engage the services of more nurses, and so to overtake the arrears of work which at present are as considerable in amount as they are distressing.

(*Continued from previous column*)

once in each year, beginning on the first Monday in July.

Every candidate entering for the whole or part of the Examination must apply to the University Extension Registrar for an entry form, not earlier than April 1, which must be returned to the Accountant, duly filled up, together with the proper fee, not later than May 15.

The fee for each candidate is Five Guineas for each entry to the whole Examination, Two-and-a-half Guineas for each entry to either Part, and Two Guineas for re-examination in one subject or examination in an additional optional subject.

A Diploma to be called the "Diploma in Public Administration (University Extension and Tutorial Classes Council)," under the seal of the University and signed by the Chancellor, will be delivered to each candidate who has passed, after the Report of the Examiners has been approved by the Senate.

General Literature

By Jonas Praps

Other Men's Lives

ACCORDING to the jacket, Mr. L. A. G. Strong calls "**Old Jules**" by Mari Sandoz (Chapman, 12s. 6d.) "a remarkable achievement in biography," but it is really much more than this. Jules, a Swiss, disappointed in love, emigrated to the States in the early '80's of last century, and staked a claim in Nebraska. His struggle to make a living and his adventures with "rustlers" and Indians are told from authentic sources by his daughter. It is a fine picture of a settler's life and difficulties more gripping and realistic than any of the modern "Western" stories.—David Chale, an Englishman turned Muslim by conviction, and his Malayan wife, Munirah, make the difficult pilgrimage from Sarawak to Mecca. The story of Chale's conversion, marriage and journey is told by Owen Rutter in "**Triumphant Pilgrimage**" (Harrap, 10s. 6d.).—Herman Darewski's "**Musical Memories**" (Jarrolds, 10s. 6d.) are racily told. He has met many interesting persons and some strange characters, and tells some good stories of both.—The persons and strange characters Leonard Mosley meets with in his travels are not nearly so conventional. In "**So Far So Good**" (Joseph, 10s. 6d.) he tells of his journalistic experiences in the States from East to West, and the difficulties of existence in between jobs.

Fiction

In fiction I should give the palm this month to "**Divide the Desolation.**" Usually, stories based upon the lives of famous people bore one stiff, but this was by no means the effect of "Divide the Desolation" (Harrap, 8s. 6d.) upon myself. The incidents in this story centre around the lives of the Brontë family, particularly Emily, and Kathryn J. MacFarlane has succeeded not only in telling a gripping tale, but in reproducing the atmosphere of time and place. The title is the opening words of a book which Emily and Branwell planned. You live the times, and I cannot recall any book about this curious family more truly delightful.—"**Blind Man's Year,**" by Warwick Deeping (Cassell, 7s. 6d.), is just Deeping. He usually has a decent story to tell and tells it in good English. His latest is of the love which grew up between a popular spinster authoress and an aviator who crashes in her garden, the accident producing blindness. I suppose such wretches as the lady's sister Norah do exist.—I always think Francis Brete Young worth reading for his descriptive powers. In his new book "**They Seek a Country**" (Heinemann, 8s. 6d.) he has a gripping story to tell of a youth one hundred years ago deported to Botany Bay for theft. He makes good his escape on the voyage near the coast of South Africa, and in the social sense as well.—A sea story of an extensive cruise, character studies of officers, men and passengers may be said briefly to describe "**Sea Way Only,**" by Humfrey Jordan (Hodder, 8s. 6d.), but they do not do justice to the easy narrative style of writing: the story, too, is well told.

Travel Experiences

F. S. Smythe was a member of the unsuccessful Ruttledge party in its attempt on Mount Everest in 1933. In "**Camp Six**" (Hodder, 18s.) he relates his personal experiences based upon his diary. It is entirely in good narrative form and free from scientific records: the price, however, seems very excessive.—"**Farewell Spain,**" by Kate O'Brien (Heinemann, 7s. 6d.) is travel of the sentimental type. There is little or nothing of topography or travel details, but some rather charming descriptions of associations—historic and personal. If you can read (or skip) the first chapter you will appreciate the book as a work of art.—In unconventional manner Raymond Cattell has examined the coast of Devon from water, not land. In a small boat, he has, during the summers of 1931-35, with one or two companions, sailed along the southern coast and explored its rivers and coves. His experiences are pleasantly told in "**Under Sail Through Red Devon**" (Maclehose, 12s. 6d.).—"**Dead Puppets Dance**" (Collins, 10s. 6d.) is one of the most amazingly intimate travel books it is possible to imagine. Philip Thornton visited the Balkan States in 1935-6 primarily in search of information concerning music and dancing among the people. You do not need a map to follow his wanderings for what is chiefly impressed upon one is the intimate family life of people far removed from the usual track of travellers. The illustrations are very good.

(*Continued from page 229*)

should be compulsory at 60 years of age and that they should be allowed an option to retire at 55; or at any age between 55 and 60, after 30 years' service. The new Act not only applies this recommendation to midwives and health visitors as well as female nurses, but also provides that the employing authority may grant to a female nurse, midwife or health visitor an additional annual compensatory allowance not exceeding the difference between the superannuation allowance to which she is entitled on retirement at any of the above-mentioned ages and that to which she would have been entitled if she had continued in the employment of the authority until age 65. These provisions do not apply to any officer employed on the appointed day unless she gives notice that she desires them to apply to her.

Superannuation of employees of Local Act Authorities

The new Act provides for the adaptation of local Act schemes so as to ensure that every whole-time officer of the authority, not being an officer appointed in a temporary capacity for a period of two years or less, shall be compulsorily superannuable; and in the case of registration officers and transferred poor law and rating employees the benefits of the authority's superannuation fund are to be so adapted that such persons shall enjoy rights not substantially less favourable, and be subject to liabilities not substantially more onerous, than those which would apply to them if they were in the employment of an authority under Part I. of the Act. A local Act authority may substitute the provisions of Part I. for their local Act scheme, subject to the interests and rights of the various parties concerned being protected.

Registration officers

Every registration officer is deemed for superannuation purposes to be an officer in the employment of the local authority discharging registration functions in the district for which the officer acts.

Mental hospital employees

Service as a mental hospital employee and as a local government employee in any other capacity is to be treated for superannuation purposes as interchangeable.

Reduction of superannuation allowance during re-employment

The Act of 1922 makes no provision for the reduction or suspension of the superannuation allowance of a superannuated officer who is re-employed in the local government service. Provision is now made for the suspension or reduction of the allowance in such a case.

Appeals to the Minister of Health

Under the Act of 1922 any dispute as to the right to or the amount of superannuation allowance had to be referred to arbitration.

By the new Act the Minister is substituted for an arbitrator as the appellate authority for the determination of any question concerning the rights or liabilities of any employee under Part I. of the Act. This change in the law should lead to the prompt determination of questions and to uniformity in decisions on comparable cases.

It is also provided that the Minister may at any stage of the proceedings on the reference to him state in the form of a special case for the opinion of the High Court any question of law arising in the proceedings.

Reciprocal arrangements between England and Scotland

The Act of 1922 applied to Scotland as well as England, and in place of that Act separate Acts for the two countries have been passed. The Scottish Act, except in so far as it deals with matters peculiar to Scotland, is on all fours with the English Act, and the Minister of Health and the Secretary of State for Scotland are empowered to make such regulations as are necessary to deal with the cases of employees transferring from local authorities in England to local authorities in Scotland and vice-versa.

Have You had a Happy Holiday?

Write and tell N.A.L.G.O. of the address at which you stayed if you consider it worthy of inclusion in the Nalgo Holiday Guide.

Remember that Nalgo relies on the recommendations of its members for an up-to-date and comprehensive compilation of addresses. If you have patronised an establishment already recommended in the Guide, a commentary thereon would be most helpful in arranging the 1938 issue.

Many thanks for your assistance in compiling the Guide in past years.

Please write to:

The Secretary, N.A.L.G.O.
Special Activities Department,
Westminster, S.W.1.

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THE CORPORATION OF CERTIFIED SECRETARIES EXAMINATIONS

Local Government Administration are held in June and December. Examination Syllabus and Application Forms may be obtained from the Secretary, 30, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1

UNIVERSITY of LONDON COMMERCE DEGREE BUREAU

THE OFFICIAL INSTITUTION of the UNIVERSITY providing STUDY COURSES for EXTERNAL STUDENTS preparing for the COMMERCE DEGREE EXAMINATIONS of the UNIVERSITY OF LONDON who are unable to attend regular College Lectures. *For Prospectus apply to Secretary*—Mr. H. J. CRAWFORD, B.A., UNIVERSITY OF LONDON W.C.1

DYSPEPSIA

Of all forms of digestive derangement, dyspepsia is not one that will be put right by waving a magic wand. When the correct treatment has been prescribed a certain amount of patience may be called for before the final cure is effected.

Probably the most reliable, and certainly the most popular form of treatment is Maclean Brand Stomach Powder. It is a perfectly balanced combination of pure ingredients designed to deal with the peculiar needs of dyspeptic subjects. In many cases the impaired power of digestion so common in dyspepsia has to be assisted, and it is in rendering this much-needed assistance to good digestion that Maclean Brand Stomach Powder is so beneficial. When the natural flow of gastric juice is deficient, this powder restores balance in the stomach and works wonders with the digestive organs.

Dyspeptic subjects should take Maclean Brand Stomach Powder regularly for a week or two, during which period they will experience a progressive improvement that will surprise and delight them. Get the original MACLEAN BRAND Stomach Powder with the signature, "ALEX. C. MACLEAN" on the bottle. Powder or tablets, 1/3, 2/-, 5/-. Never sold loose.

Bridge Forum

By

NEVILLE HOBSON

Beware of Minor Suits!

When in London a few weeks ago I played Contract with three enthusiasts, who made it clear when we broke up that they would welcome any hints I cared to give them.

Throughout the play I had realised one serious weakness, and as this is quite a common one, I will discuss it in some detail. Before I do so, however, let me say that the players in question handled their cards very well and called soundly in the early stages. They frequently "missed the boat," however, during the later bidding, owing to neglect to bid a second suit or indicate a stop in an adverse suit called against them.

Game Score: At Love all, the basis of scoring in both Contract and Auction is such as to require the following to ensure Game: No Trumps, 9 tricks; Spades or Hearts, 10 Tricks; Diamonds or Clubs, 11 tricks.

Let me put this the other way about. If No Trumps is the declaration, then no less than 5 tricks have to be obtained by the defenders to save Game. If a major suit is declared, then 4 tricks must be secured to do this. If, however, either Diamonds or Clubs are trumps, then the opponents have only to score 3 tricks against the declarer to prevent a game score.

Major Suits: The advantage of Spades or Hearts is, then, that 10 tricks must be won instead of 11, and the difference between these respective aggregates is greater than is frequently realised.

No Trumps: This relative difference is carried further when "No Trumps" is the declaration, as 9 tricks can frequently be made in the case of a good all-round hand with proper distribution, when any chance of making 10 or 11 would be doomed from the outset. I realise, of course, that No Trumps possesses special risks of its own, but the point frequently arises as to whether such risks are not worth taking on certain types of hand, in view of the bonus advantage which may follow a game contract.

Minor Suits: During the evening to which I have referred I would open, as South, with One Diamond. West, on my left, would bid One Heart. My partner, North (holding Q, 9, x, x in Hearts) would jump to 3 Diamonds, with the result that my only bid was either 4 or 5 of Diamonds. Had North bid 1 No Trump or 2 No Trumps over the defensive bid, I should have raised him to 3, and his support of my Diamond suit, coupled with his stop or stops in Hearts, would have produced 9 or 10 tricks. In No Trumps either of these totals would have made game, but he left me on two occasions during the evening to make 10 tricks in a Minor suit, and another time to make 11 (when I failed by one trick to do so). In the other two instances I made my 10 tricks, but neither produced game, and our opponents went out with the rubber immediately afterwards.

The moral is to give your partner information as to a cover in an adverse suit, or strength in another suit, in the early stages of the bidding, so as to give him a better scoring alternative to a Minor suit if it should be available.

Home Gardening

By WALTER P. WRIGHT

Author of "Roses and Rose Gardens," "Alpine Flowers and Rock Gardens," "The Wright Encyclopedia of Gardening," etc.

I CAN imagine many an amateur gardener coming home after the holidays and raking out of the letter box with mixed feelings, a pile of bulb catalogues commingled with the usual assortment of health-reviver circulars, winter coal prices and such-like announcements. Why "mixed feelings" however? Well, his pockets are presumably empty after the invigorating but expensive spell by the sea; while the catalogues are more alluring than ever. Was it not always thus? It was, and it will be till the end of time, so the only thing is to make the best of it.

Once more let me remind readers of two potent facts—that competition among bulb-dealers is not less keen than in past years, but rather the reverse; and that he who is prepared to forego specialising can economise with perfect wisdom and safety by relying on dealers' "collections." Big general houses are proceeding to almost unheard of lengths in this matter. Out of sheer curiosity I ordered a collection of 500 bulbs for 5s., carriage paid, from a large stores last year. Rubbish? No indeed! The firm wouldn't have dared. The bulbs were a genuine bargain.

I do see one thing, though—such offers are a little hard on purely horticultural firms, and we must not let the emporium which supplies us with our autoradiograms, refrigerators, motor-cars and carpet-sweepers satisfy all our bulb wants too. Certain varieties we must have and we cannot count on them when picking up ultra-cheap lots.

Here are the names of a few things which no self-respecting bulb-grower will do without: Hyacinths (for glasses and bowls): Lady Derby, Queen of the Pinks, L'Innocence, Queen of the Whites, King of the Blues, and Dr. Lieber (early); Trumpet Daffodils: King Alfred and Mrs. Krelage; Large-cup Daffodils: Lucifer and Sir Watkin; Poet's Narcissi: Horace and Sonata; early Tulips: Fred Moore, Keizer's Kroon and White Swan; late Tulips; Clara Butt, Gesneriana major, Inglescombe Yellow, La Candeur, Orange King, and Pride of Haarlem; Anemones: double St. Brigid mixture and single fulgens; Chionodoxas ("Glory of the Snow"): Luciliae and sardensis; Dutch Irises: White Excelsior and Yellow Queen; Lilium regale; and Muscari ("Grape Hyacinth"): Heavenly Blue. Make sure of these and the rest can look after themselves.

It may be that some of my readers laid-in bulbs of various kinds after flowering last spring, and to them I would say: such bulbs cannot be unearthed, cleaned, sorted into sizes, and for that matter replanted, too early in September for their good; but space cannot always be found before the general October turnover.

We agree that bulb-planting is not urgent, but certain other things are. Thus the old canes of rambler Roses should not be left crowding the new ones after the middle of the month, or the latter will not develop and ripen to the greatest advantage; moreover, there is risk of mildew spreading if present. Then if Paeony clumps are to be divided it should not be deferred till all the other hardy perennials are ready for such treatment, because Paeonies are particularly early ripeners. Thirdly, with adequate moisture about (but not in the midst of a dry spell) Carnations layered a few weeks ago may be separated from the parents and potted or planted out according to conveniences.

As regards propagation, the final batch of cuttings may be taken from Zonal and Ivy-leaved Geraniums, Cat Mint (Nepeta) and Lavender; while subjects that will do later, such as Pansies, Violas, bedding Calceolarias, Pentstemons, Antirrhinums, Roses and Salvias may also be increased now if convenient.

Outdoor Chrysanthemums which were stopped in May and June to ensure side breaks will now be coming into bloom on these lateral shoots. Should disbudding be done or not? The reply is that if a limited number of flowers, each on a fairly long stem, is wanted, rather than a set of short-stemmed sprays, disbudding will be helpful. For tall vases in particular long stems are a real advantage and three to four good flowers on each stem are ample to produce a good effect.

Does one reader or another fancy a frame of winter Violets? Then let him set his frame with a warm southern aspect, tread in a firm base of withered leaves or manure if available, put in nine inches depth of loamy soil lightened with sand, and transplant sturdy stuff from the open, or buy, setting the plants a foot apart. Ventilate on all favourable days, and avoid drought, then that minute foe red spider will be kept at bay.

Owners of greenhouses will find plenty to do on return from the holidays, for the following duties, among others, are seasonable: making a sowing of Persian Cyclamens for blooming in the winter of 1938-9; giving young Cinerarias and Primulas their flowering pots of six inch size; getting pot Chrysanthemums into the greenhouse from the middle to the end of the month; potting-up Arum Lilies which have been planted out for the summer; potting White Roman and "Prepared" Hyacinths, also Paper White Narcissi and Van Thol Tulips, for flowering in early winter; and getting under glass protection, preferably in a greenhouse, perpetual Carnations which are to bloom in winter and spring.

Perhaps I may be permitted to quote the following from *The Times Literary Supplement* respecting my latest book "Room and Window Gardening" (Dent).

"Indoor gardening gives great pleasure to many who have no real garden, and this book deals very thoroughly with its problems."

Amongst the New Publications

The 13th Edition of "**Executorship Law and Accounts,**" by Ranking, Spicer & Pegler, and edited by H. A. R. J. Wilson, F.C.A., F.S.A.A., has recently been issued by Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd. In addition to including all cases of importance decided since the previous edition went to press and reviewing the text wherever necessary to bring it up to date, the Editor has concentrated upon the task of simplifying the subject as far as its inherent difficulties allow. Included in the work are tables of cases, references, and statutes. The main headings to the book are as follows:

(1) The devolution of property on death.
(2) Executors and administrators.
(3) Death duties.
(4) Powers and duties of personal representatives.
(5) Distribution of the estates (creditors.)
(6) Distribution of the estates (beneficiaries.)
(7) Apportionment.
(8) Books and accounts.
(9) Audit of executors and trustees accounts.

It is, in fact, a complete manual for executors, trustees, accountants, and auditors.

* * *

A new edition of "**The British Civil Service,**" by Dr. Herman Finer, Reader in Public Administration in the University of London, has recently been published by George Allen & Unwin, as a bound volume, price 3s. 6d. It is intended to be of service to students until the author's "Principles of Public Administration" is ready.

In the first chapter the author points out the social significance of the Civil Service. However adequate the "political" side of our government, however wide our political philosophy and high leadership and command, these would be of no effect without a body of officials, expert in the application of the decisions of Parliament (with wisdom in particular cases) permanently and specially employed to apply them.

From 1689 when Parliament proved its supremacy over the Crown, the mass of officials were excluded from Parliament in order to safeguard political purity. Dr. Finer traces reform and development from this time to the present day.

In the chapter on general organization a résumé is given of the control of the Treasury, the executive authority, methods of recruitment, post-entry training and education and similar matters.

The classes of employees receive individual attention—executive, administrative, and clerical, together with the conditions and provisions that affect their promotion, remuneration, and discipline.

"The first duty of a Civil Servant is to give his undivided allegiance to the State at all times—a Civil Servant is not to subordinate his duty to his private interests," are extracts from a report quoted by the author in eulogizing the spirit of the service, and the effect of the spirit on the operation of the organization.

As to the future, the author has an open mind. Trusting as he does in the ultimate sufficiency of the Civil Service for the task with which it is confronted, he is nevertheless, moved to reflect that "suppose when the structure has been built that owing to unforeseen forces it should break down, or fail to satisfy, what then?

"Should the structure break down, then let the world renew its science and its ideals; it will find happiness in the new task."

The old order changeth.

* * *

The second edition of the **Valuation Officer's** handbook has been published by Messrs. Shaw & Sons. Mr. Stanley G. Hope, F.A.I., has revised and brought up to date all the chapters which appeared in the first edition. This book is intended primarily for the use of Valuation Officers of Local Authorities, and the classes of property which are dealt with have been selected as being those which should normally be dealt with by these officials. In addition to dealing in a very comprehensive manner with the valuation of property, there are valuable chapters on the office organisation for a quinquennial revaluation, and the statute and case law on the amendment of the valuation list. Over 100 cases are referred to and discussed, for Mr. Hope is firmly of the opinion that one cannot have too much information about property. This edition will prove of as much help to those who are connected with the work of making valuations for rating purposes, as was the first edition. The price of the book is 6s. 6d. post free.

School Shield for Essay on Civics

Salford's Contribution

A shield to be awarded for essays on civic affairs and to be competed for annually by Salford school children was presented to the Salford Education Committee by representatives of the Salford branch.

A handsomely designed trophy in polished oak and oxydised silver, the shield bears the civic coat-of-arms, the badge of the association presenting it and the record that it was presented by N.A.L.G.O. in commemoration of the Coronation year. It will be kept in the school from which the winning essay comes, and the writer of the essay will receive a prize of £1 1s.

Mr. P. Baker, chairman of the Salford branch of the association, and Mr. L. H. Taylor, the hon. secretary, (N.E.C.), making the presentation, both expressed the hope that the writing of the annual essay might help in the development of the civic spirit in the citizens of the future and in bringing about a wider knowledge of municipal affairs.

The chairman, Alderman J. Rothwell, J.P., making acknowledgment on behalf of the Education Committee, and the headmasters and teachers of the schools, said that there was no country in the world where civic life was conducted as it was in England on a voluntary basis with everybody sinking political differences for the welfare of the people generally; and nowhere were to be found municipal officers with a higher standard of integrity and sense of responsibility. He expressed appreciation of this attempt by N.A.L.G.O. to assist the children in understanding the administration of their city and to teach them their duty of service to the community.

This contribution by Salford branch to the task of furthering the knowledge of civic affairs amongst children is of considerable significance and falls into line with the suggestions made in the July issue of this journal for making known to the community the debt which is owed to local government for the high state of public well-being in this country—a debt which, it is to be expected, will be appreciated by future citizens of Salford city.

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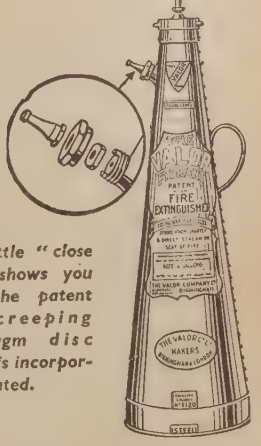

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Here and There

Sporting Events

N.A.L.G.O. Cup Changes Hands

The annual half mile river swim of the N.A.L.G.O. (Metropolitan District) for the Kingston cup was held at Kingston on Wednesday, July 21. The event attracted 25 competitors (14 more than last year) from different metropolitan local authorities, together with many interested spectators.

The massed start from a barge was good, and several competitors attempted to take the lead immediately. Woodward (of the J. E. A.), the ultimate winner, was one of these, and, swimming well on a mid-stream course looked the winner all the way. Newton (of Deptford), the holder, got away in much the same style and but for taking an erratic course—far too near the Surrey side, where, unfortunately he was impeded by barges and launches—he would have finished nearer the winner.

Of the other competitors, of whom all but one finished, several swam well, though obviously handicapped by lack of experience in river swimming.

The result was: 1, Woodward (J.E.A.), 12 mins. 50 secs. (won by 50 yards), 2, Newton (Deptford, holder), 13 mins. 44 secs., 3, Bacon (Middlesex County), 13 mins. 47 secs., 4, Steer (Surbiton), 13 mins. 53 secs.

After the race the large company went to the Guildhall, where, after refreshments had been served, the prizes were presented by Mr. T. F. Dunning (hon. secretary of the sports section of the N.A.L.G.O. metropolitan district), who thanked the Kingston Branch and their hon. secretary, Mr. J. A. Starkie, for organising the event.

* * *

N.A.L.G.O. Defeat Lymington

The final match in the Ald. Stone Cricket Cup Competition played at Lymington Sports Ground on Friday, July 30, between Lymington 2nd XI and New Forest N.A.L.G.O., produced one of the most thrilling finishes in the whole competition. N.A.L.G.O. batted first, and put on 121 for 8 wickets (Dyson 44, W. C. Marsh not out 29, Walsh 13, and Baker 13). Dyson put up a "dolly" and was dropped when his score still remained in single figures, but after this escape he batted well for his 44.

Lymington started poorly, and half their wickets fell for 36.

Lymington Tail Wags

It seemed as though a bad defeat was inevitable, but the tail wagged viciously and gave N.A.L.G.O. a shock. Longden started the ball rolling with Ridgeway as the 9th wicket fell. He hit two sixes with successive balls from Read, and seemed to inspire Ridgeway. The score mounted, but time was short, and when the bell for the last over went, Lymington wanted 29 to win. The two men tried hard, but as the 5th ball of the over went down victory for Lymington was impossible, and Longden was run out, the innings closing for 100.

A fine finish, but Lymington should have started their recovery earlier. N.A.L.G.O. are to be congratulated on their splendid fielding. Marsh in particular was in great form, and his accurate throwing-in cost Lymington two wickets.

Members of the N.A.L.G.O. team were: W. Dyson, A. C. Baker, A. N. Walker, F. Read, J. Walsh, W. C. Marsh, J. D. Booth, F. W. Pilbrow, J. H. B. Wilshin, R. Shepard.

At the close of the game the Mayor (Coun. Capt. B. H. Boodhart, M.C., J.P.), presented the cup. Mr. H. C. Heppenstall spoke of Ald. E. A. G. Stone, M.B.E., the donor of the cup, who was unable to be present owing to illness, and expressed the wish that he would soon be well again.

Medals were presented to the winning and losing players, and three cheers for the Mayor and Alderman Stone were given.

* * *

Luton v. Hitchin

A brilliant century by George Crouch enabled Luton Branch to defeat Hitchin Branch at Wardown on Thursday, July 23.

It was agreed to play 70 minutes each, and Luton went in first. Runs came very quickly on an excellent batting wicket, until W. Crouch was caught.

Rushton went in to join G. Crouch, and between them they put on 88 for the second wicket.

When Luton's time had expired, Crouch was 102 not out, and the Luton's total was 189 for 2.

Hinton bowled Smith when Hitchin had only ten runs, but Crawshaw and King got together to make 65 for the second wicket, when Crawshaw, who had settled down well, was unfortunately run out.

Wickets fell steadily, and runs were scored freely, but Hitchin were 52 runs behind Luton when the time limit expired.

Luton scores were as follows:

W. Crouch c Game b Hooper	38
G. Crouch not out	102
H. T. Rushton c Japson b Camfield ..	31
R. F. Carrington not out	1
Extras	17

* * *

YORKSHIRE DISTRICT

The following is a summary of the results in the Tennis Mixed Doubles Competition:

Preliminary Round.

			Winners
Batley	v.	Rotherham	Rotherham
East Riding	v.	West Riding	West Riding
Bingley	v.	Sheffield	Bingley
Wakefield	v.	Huddersfield	Huddersfield
Harrogate	v.	Leeds	Leeds

First Round.

Hull	v.	Huddersfield	Huddersfield
West Riding	v.	Halifax	Halifax
Rotherham	v.	Leeds	Leeds
Scarborough	v.	Bingley	Bingley

Semi-Final.

Huddersfield	v.	Bingley	Huddersfield
Leeds	v.	Halifax	Halifax

In the Final Round, Halifax gained a substantial victory over their colleagues from Huddersfield. The match was played at the Tennis Courts at the Moor Allerton Golf Club, Leeds, and the trophy was presented to the winners by Mr. T. Nolan, Honorary Treasurer of the District Committee and member of the National Executive Council.

The Sports Section of the **Bolton and District Branch** has been particularly active during the past year. A Departmental Cricket Competition has been in progress during the summer in addition to the usual Departmental Bowling Competition. The winners of the Cricket Competition were the Borough Engineer's Department. The Bowling Trophy has been won by the Education Department.

In the Golf Competition promoted by the Branch, for which 35 entries were received, the winner for the best net score was Mr. T. Blackburn of the Accountant's Dept., Horwich U.D.C., while the prize for the best second nine holes was won by Mr. T. Bent (Parks Superintendent, and President of the Branch.)

The Snooker Handicap run by the branch was won by Mr. T. Berry of the Public Assistance Department.

* * *

Here are the final results of the **N.A.L.G.O. (Metropolitan District) Bowls Competitions, 1937.**

Rink.—*Paddington, 23; Wandsworth, 20.

Pairs.—*Paddington (Birtles and Dunning), 20; Ilford (Crowe and Fennell), 18.

Singles.—S. J. Savidge (Leyton), 21; J. Crowther (Lewisham), 19.

*Third successive win.

* * *

NORTH-WESTERN DISTRICT SPORTS

The Sports Finals Day will be held on Saturday, September 18, 1937, at Fleetwood, when the Golf (Final) and Golf (Consolation) Competitions will be held on the Fleetwood Golf Course.

The Bowls Competition (Finals in Teams and Individual Merit Sections), and Tennis Finals (Teams and Individuals) will also take place on this date at Fleetwood.

Social

Sixty-three members and friends of the **Mitcham** Branch attended their first Summer Outing on June 6 by coach to Portsmouth, by air to Ryde, and by coach again to Shanklin, five hours being spent by the sea. The outing, particularly the air trip, was greatly appreciated and it is hoped that an event on these lines will become an annual affair.

* * *

Luton Forgotten for a Day

A party of 77, consisting of members of the Luton Branch and their friends left Luton for an extensive tour of the countryside around Windsor on June 23.

They went to Mile Oak by coach, and then embarked on a river steamer, passing down the Thames to Windsor.

Lunch was taken on the steamer, and in the afternoon about twenty of them went over St. George's Chapel, while the remainder had a coach tour round Virginia Water, Fort Belvedere and Ascot.

In the evening they went up to town and saw the show at the Palladium.

They got back to Luton about 2 a.m. the next day.

* * *

The Chichester City Branch held its Second Annual Outing on July 17th. The party left Chichester at 9 a.m. and proceeded, via Windsor, for Oxford, which was reached at 2 p.m. After lunch the members visited the colleges and had a short boat trip on the river. Tea was provided by the President at the Cadena Cafe, and the party reached home at 11 p.m., after a very enjoyable day.

Personal

Members will be very interested to learn of the Golden Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. J. Darricotte, who are now living in retirement at Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire.

Mr. Darricotte's work on behalf of N.A.L.G.O. will long be remembered. He was one of its founders and served on the National Executive Council from its inception to his retirement. He was founder of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund, and was for sixteen years Chairman of the Management Committee.

He was closely connected with the educational life of Bolton, and was appointed supervisor and inspector of schools under the Bolton Education Authority, which position he held from 1903 until 1926. After his retirement he served on the deputation of educational experts that inspected the technical schools of Europe.

Mr. Darricotte was secretary of the Bolton Golf Club from 1912 to 1921, and when last year he went to live at Cheadle Hulme he became a member of the Bramhall Park Club.

Mr. and Mrs. Darricotte

Here is a photograph of Mr. and Mrs. Darricotte, taken in their garden on their Golden Wedding Day, when Mr. Darricotte had played a game of tennis. With gardening and golf as his hobbies he finds ample time to occupy his leisure. We thought one had to rest when one retired, but apparently Mr. Darricotte has led such a busy life that he finds it difficult to be idle.

* * *

We congratulate **Mr. Norman Scorgie,** Junior Town Clerk Depute of Aberdeen, on his appointment as County Clerk and Treasurer of Clackmannan. The post carries with it a commencing salary of £1,100 rising to £1,300. Mr. Scorgie, who is 41 years of age, has been Town Clerk Depute of Aberdeen for the past seven years. Prior to that he was with Aberdeen Education Authority. He is a noted golfer.

* * *

Changes in the Staff at Abingdon

Mr. K. Money, Surveyor's Assistant to Engineering Assistant Godalming Urban District Council.

Mr. W. J. Hale, Surveyor's Assistant to Surveying Assistant Orpington Urban District Council.

Mr. R. P. King who is at present Assistant Surveyor to the Abingdon Borough Council, has been successful in securing an appointment under the Romford Urban District Council. Prior to his appointment at Abingdon he was an Assistant in the Engineer and Surveyor's Dept. of the Yiewsley and West Drayton Urban District Council.

* * *

Peterborough Branch continues to make good progress and membership has just attained the hundred mark.

On the occasion of his retirement from the service of the Barry Urban District Council, **Mr. Daniel Matthews,** Slot-meter Collector, was presented by the members of the Branch with a gold watch. The presentation was made by the President, Mr. G. Fidler, at Lorna Doone Farm, Malmstead, Devon, on the occasion of the annual outing. Mr. Matthews entered the service of the Barry Council in 1899 and had completed 37 years' service under the Authority when he retired.

Mr. Thomas E. Franklin, Gas, Water and Electricity Engineer and Manager under the Barry Urban District Council, retired from the service of the Authority on July 5 last, after completing 29 years' service. Prior to his appointment at Barry, Mr. Franklin was Gas Engineer under the Goole Urban District Council, and had previously served a period of apprenticeship under the Widnes Corporation. The Barry Branch was formed in 1908, and Mr. Franklin was one of the foundation members. As a token of esteem, the Barry Branch presented Mr. Franklin with a gas refrigerator on the occasion of his retirement.

Mr. John Jenkins, F.R.V.A., Rating and Valuation Officer, Barry Urban District Council, has resigned his appointment under the Authority and terminates his duties on September 25 next, after completing 44 years' service in the various departments of the Council. Mr. Jenkins, who retires under the provisions of the Superannuation Act of 1922, entered the service of the Barry Council in June, 1893, as an assistant to the then Superintendent Collector. In 1911 he was appointed Superintendent Collector, and in 1932 Rating and Valuation Officer, and during the whole of his service as a chief officer, has been held in the highest esteem and regard by the Council and members of the Barry Branch. A foundation member of the Branch (formed in 1908) he has throughout been a loyal colleague and friend. In October next, the Barry Branch propose to hold the Annual Dinner and intend to take the opportunity to make a presentation to Mr. Jenkins.

Mr. H. G. Firth, who succeeds the late Mr. E. W. Cockerlyne as Highways Engineer of Leeds, this month, was President of the Leeds Municipal Officers' Guild during the year 1934-5. Over a period of many years Mr. Firth has rendered the Guild sterling service.

In a letter acknowledging the congratulations of the Guild upon his appointment, Mr. Firth writes: "It is particularly gratifying to be remembered by my old friends of N.A.L.G.O., and I can assure you that my interest in the work of the Association will not lessen."

Mr. Firth was a scholar at Bradford Grammar School and entered the service when he left. In the course of his career Mr. Firth has filled every technical position in the department of which he is now the Chief Officer, travelling extensively in studying highway construction.

Mr. L. R. Moir, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Leeds Branch, succeeds Mr. Firth in the position of Deputy Highways Engineer. Mr. Moir's leadership of the Executive Committee in the capacity of Chairman has extended over a period of close upon three years. He was previously Deputy Chairman for two years.

While serving in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry during the War, Mr. Moir won the Military Cross.

NEW BRANCHES

The officers of the **Pershore** Rural District Council have formed a Branch as from September 1. Formerly some of the officers were members of the Evesham and District Branch.

Obituaries

We much regret to record the death of **Mr. R. A. Reay-Nadin,** Town Clerk of Sutton Coldfield. Mr. Reay-Nadin was aged 70, and was to have retired shortly, his successor having been appointed.

Only last month congratulations were extended to Mr. Reay-Nadin through the medium of this journal on his appointment to the Bench as a Justice of the Peace.

In the early days of N.A.L.G.O., Mr. Reay-Nadin played a leading part. He was a member of the National Executive Council from 1909 to 1919, and his enthusiasm led to the formation of many pre-war Branches. At the Birkenhead Conference in 1910, he seconded the resolution to form the B. & O. Fund. Other public causes benefited from his activities latterly, but he continued to give splendid support to his branch, of which he had been President since its inception, and in 1935 he was a representative at the Cheltenham Conference.

Mr. Reay-Nadin had the gift of friendship. All who came into contact with him soon discovered this. And he had the art of establishing happy relationships with his colleagues. He was head of a very happy family at Sutton Coldfield; no outsider who visited the Town Hall could fail to realise that all ranks respected and admired the Town Clerk.

It is with extreme regret that we report the death of **Mr. F. Renwick,** formerly Deputy Town Clerk of Rotherham. Mr. Renwick, who was 64 years of age, retired on superannuation in June last year after 40 years' service at Rotherham. He died on Thursday, July 29. He held the position of Branch Secretary at Rotherham for a considerable period, and probably held the record for continuous service in this capacity. Mr. Renwick rendered devoted service to the Association both in his own Branch and the Yorkshire District Committee. His death, after such a short retirement, will be regretted by his numerous friends in N.A.L.G.O.

We regret to announce the death of the President of the Beckenham Branch, **Mr. J. E. Tapper,** which took place suddenly whilst on holiday at Truro on Monday, August 16.

Mr. Tapper was Electrical Engineer and Manager at Beckenham from 1904 to 1935 and became Borough Electrical Engineer in September 1935. He was a Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers and a member

The late Mr. J. E. Tapper

of numerous E.D.A. Committees, etc. He was Vice-President of the Beckenham Branch of N.A.L.G.O. for many years, and at the time of his death was President. He was a member of the I.M.E.A. and Associated Municipal Electrical Engineers of which body he was also President for the current year.

The funeral service was held on Friday, August 20, at the Congregational Church, Beckenham, the interment being at Chislehurst

On Educating Councillors

A certain American municipal publication laments the fact that the city manager plan is so dependent upon "Councilmen" for its success.

In a recent issue this publication points out that the success of the city manager plan rests perhaps more upon the relations between the council and the city manager than upon any single element, unless it be the manager himself. Increasing irritation in these relations in a number of American cities gives cause for serious consideration.

The problem arises in this way: All too often an aroused public opinion in a community will change the form of government to the city manager plan, and elect well-meaning citizens to the council who have little conception of the manager plan or how it should operate. Elected to public office for the first time, they take their responsibilities so seriously that they are apt to forget, if they ever knew, that the responsibility of a member of the legislative body under the manager form is legislative, not executive, and that the manager plan will succeed only if they concentrate their attention and thinking upon policy forming and *supervision* of execution—not execution itself.

The city manager is but one individual in surroundings not always completely harmonious bringing to bear the light of his special knowledge on the problems of the municipal administration. He is hired by the council. A veteran diplomat might well balk at an attempt by the city manager to tell the councilmen—his bosses—where their powers ended and his began. Yet there has been in some manager cities too much meddling in administration by members of the council and too much "passing the buck" to the manager on important decisions.

Perhaps we need a "committee on the education of councilmen"—it would be a first rate piece of adult education redounding immediately to the benefit of the community!

The latter remark is a similar expression of opinion to that made by Provost Reid of St. Andrews at the Nalgo Summer School held early in July. Provost Reid said that he would like to see a summer school for Town Councillors. Town Councils were often hampered by the chap who thought he knew all.

It looks as though this complaint is almost world wide.

Nalgo Classes

Classes in preparation for the Examinations of the National Association of Local Government Officers will be held at the Swan Street (City) L.C.C. Institute, Minories, E.C.3, commencing on September 28. Two courses of study will be followed.

1. Preparation for Intermediate examinations, which include Elements of Statistics, Elements of Economics, Office Practice and Local Government Administration.

2. Preparation for Final examinations, which include Law, Contact and Tort; Law, Master and Servant; Municipal Organizations and conduct of Meetings, etc.; The State System of Education.

The fees for the Session to July 1, 1938, over a full course of 4 hours per week are:

For students aged 18 years, 8s. 4d.; 19 or 20 years, 12s. 6d.; 21 and over, 15s.

Students should enrol at Swan Street during the week commencing September 20, 1937, between the hours of 6 and 7 p.m. The Principal, A. E. Ashworth, M.A., LL.B., Barrister-at-Law, would like to hear from intending students. A morning telephone call to Byron 1342 will find him.

Education—Youth—War

The Association for Education in Citizens is now three years old, and can claim to ha carned a real place for itself in the world education. It is becoming widely know and there are few books dealing with rece relevant educational progress in this count which do not refer to it. The death of S Henry Hadow, who accepted the presiden of the Association at the very beginnin represents a very real loss. Sir Henry w inspired by enthusiasm and love for educatio and as long as his health permitted he attend committee meetings and conferences of t Association. In a recent booklet entitl "Experiments in Practical Training f Citizenship" issued by the Association, it observed that one of the mysterious curren making for war is the longing of the young t probe the reserve of human endurance, darin and resourcefulness. This current can b driven underground, but there it will remain i unconscious readiness for the false prophe or an international crisis, when it will burs forth, turning public opinion in favour of wa Can peace satisfy this primitive force? Yes if education changes the habits of the youn so as to contain risks, supreme tests, and glamour that will make the romance of wa fade. This craving of man to test his power in earnest will never be eradicated. All boys need to prove themselves to themselves, and education must create the opportunity. An English headmaster once spoke of mountaineering as "conquest without the humiliation o the conquered." One can add "he who has tasted such conquests loses the taste for that other kind which is inseparably bound up with the ruin and humiliation of others."

Sickness is Exorbitant!

Now's the day and now's the hour—to safeguard yourself from needless expense by insuring under the

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3 0	,,	21 0
4 0	,,	28 0
5 0	,,	35 0
6 0	,,	42 0
7 0	,,	49 0
8 0	,,	56 0
9 0	,,	63 0

SICKNESS SCHEME (Table 1)

Members of N.A.L.G.O. who join during the current month will be entitled to benefit on and after March 1st, 1938, and to TWO WEEKS' FREE convalescence at Nalgo House, Matlock, to recuperate after an illness during the year 1938.

Nalgo Provident Society

24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1

The PACE GETS HOTTER IN BADMINTON!

How we are coping with the New Standards of Play

There's a Boom in Badminton! More players than ever. Newcomers to challenge the old champions. The Speedy Game gets speedier still, with a new higher standard for all.

New problem for racket-makers, too. Greater strains to allow for. Yet, Muller's still stand by their famous Guarantee—with greater confidence than ever, because their methods are already adjusted to the new conditions. Here are the 3 pillars of the Muller Guarantee, which ensure that Muller Rackets will respond perfectly to your play, and will stand up to long and vigorous use :—

The Famous **MULLER GUARANTEE**

We will repair or replace, free of charge, any broken strings, frame or shaft, within a definite period of purchase—ranging from 6 months on "Dimid" Racket at 40/-, to 3 months on "Hamah" at 15/- (all other Muller Rackets, other definite periods).

A
B
C
D
THE BEST PART OF THE TREE
Trees get softer as you go upwards. 'A' & 'B' are used for many well-known Rackets -- too soft for Muller's. The very best "cut" is 'C'. Only this part has real 'life' with maturity. We use nothing else for Badminton.
MEN, NOT MACHINES
Real Craftsmen, wizards with gut and wood, make Muller Rackets. Mass production can't achieve the perfect tension, the lightness with strength.
BRITISH SHEEP'S GUT
No Colonial sheep will do; and synthetic gut -- never! Only English gut gives the true resilience.

NO INCREASE IN PRICES

In spite of big rise in raw material costs, price of Muller Rackets remains unaltered. There's a Muller Racket for every type of player, every purse, from 15/- to 45/-, *less*—

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It will be sufficient if you cut out this announcement, write your name and address in the margin and post together with your Association Membership Receipt in unsealed envelope (½d. stamp) to N.A.L.G.O.

The above sketch by no means exaggerates the faults and omissions seen in the average country suit

. . . padded shoulders and wasp waists are bad enough on wax mannequins, but on real men — and in tweeds too! . . . sleeves that were the right length once, but badly tailored so that they "creep" up the arm . . . plus-fours exaggerated in length and width and the wrong shape, anyhow . . . a style of front more suitable for a worsted town suit. There's more in a good suit than a reasonable "fit" — for the little *extra something* patronise a practical tailor rather than just a retailer selling clothes

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Stuarts

A party of members at Nalgo House. A snapshot taken recently. The members are: Front (sitting): Mr. J. Asprey (Widnes). First row: Mr. S. Etchells (Hyde), Mr. A. Partington (Audenshaw), Miss J. M. Arts (Wallasey), Miss Sugden (Stafford), Mr. W. Rigby (Hammersmith). Second row: Mr. C. B. Harding (Manchester), Mr. J. de Rome (Leyton), Mr. G. A. Bissatt (Sheffield). Third row: Mr. F. Wright (Leyton), Mr. F. Pyle (North Auston), Mr. W. G. Day (East Ham). Back row: Mr. W. R. Cooke (Newcastle-on-Tyne).

Personal Notes (continued)

Hull City Engineer

Two candidates for the position of City Engineer and Surveyor to the City and County of Kingston upon Hull were interviewed by the Hull Council on Thursday, August 5. The Council, after being addressed in turn by the candidates, decided to appoint Mr. William Morris, who, since March, 1931, has been Deputy City Engineer.

Mr. Morris is forty-one years of age and is a native of Manchester. His family has been connected with the municipal life of Manchester and district for over one hundred years. His father, uncle, grandfather and great grandfather have all served the Manchester City Council.

He was educated at the Xaverian College, Manchester, and received his technical education at the Manchester College of Technology.

He was appointed Deputy City Engineer and Surveyor to the City and County of Kingston upon Hull in March, 1931.

He holds five final professional examination diplomas and also a special diploma in Local Government Administration. He is a Chartered Civil Engineer, a Chartered Surveyor and a Chartered Structural Engineer, a Municipal Engineer and Registered Architect.

President of the Hull Branch of N.A.L.G.O. he is well known in local sport circles being a member of the City Engineers' Dept. Sports Club (of which he is Vice-President), Hull Badminton Club, the E.Y.H.B. Officers' Badminton Club, Hull and E. R. Tennis Club, Hull and E. R. Squash Club, and the Beverley and E. R. Golf Club.

* * *

Mr. W. G. Barlow, Deputy County Accountant for Berkshire, and a member of the Berks County Branch of N.A.L.G.O., has been appointed to succeed the County Accountant on his forthcoming retirement. Mr. Barlow will also hold the position of Local Taxation Officer.

Letters to the Editor

Correspondence is invited, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the views expressed by correspondents. No letter will be published unless accompanied by the name and address of the sender, but a nom dé plume may be sent for publication. The Editor wishes to devote space to all the letters which he receives for publication, but he cannot do this unless correspondents will make their letters "short and sweet." He reserves to himself the right to shorten letters, so as to publish more of all rather than much of a few.

Sir,—Two phrases, used by Mr. Brown in his letter, and familiar to Rotarians, suggest practical proposals which might be worthy of consideration.

International Service raises the possibility of the establishment by Nalgo of a scheme of Scholarships, under which members would spend a term of six or twelve months in other countries to gain practical experience of their local government, in exchange with officers from those countries engaged in similar work.

Community Service prompts the idea of Nalgo Boys' Clubs in the larger towns, run by the branches and staffed by the members.

I realise that these notions, inspired by Mr. Brown's letter, have nothing whatever to do with a Code of Professional Conduct, and I apologise for my irrelevance, as also for any error I may have made in assuming that the writer of the letter is no lady.

Yours etc.,

"ORLEX."

Gangs

Gang psychology has been associated with juvenile safety on the streets in rather a novel way in Ohio. Chief Garry Burczyk of the Parma, Ohio, Police Department, is organising junior safety clubs which have charters, membership cards and rules, *but no fees.*

This safety-minded executive drew up the set of rules given below to guard young citizens who belong to the gang. The only qualification for membership is that each rule be observed under all circumstances.

(1) Keep off the streets.
(2) When riding bicycles observe all traffic laws.
(3) Don't get overheated.
(4) Don't play with fire.
(5) If you can't swim stay in shallow water.
(6) Don't ride with strangers in cars.
(7) Walk carefully when crossing streets.
(8) Play safe in all games.
(9) In case of accident don't forget: First Aid, then call a doctor.
(10) Be a model soldier. Teach your little brothers and sisters the safety of the road.

INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION OF RATING AND VALUATION OFFICERS

Lancashire and Cheshire Students' Society.

Evening Lecture Courses in the subjects of the intermediate and final examinations of the above Association are again to be held at Manchester and Preston during the 1937-38 Session.

These facilities afford an excellent opportunity for those who are desirous of preparing themselves for the examinations. A highly-qualified and experienced staff of lecturers is engaged, and the fees charged are very reasonable.

Further particulars may be obtained upon application being made to the Hon. Secretary, Rating and Valuation Office, 77, Princess Street, Manchester, 2

Dear Sir,—I should appreciate an opportunity of drawing attention to an aspect of N.A.L.G.O.'s Examinations which, I consider, is potentially dangerous.

I refer to the extensive amount of objective —i.e., factual—knowledge required to pass them, and suggest that therein lies a possibility of producing examinees whose power of regurgitating data is more fully developed than their ability of forming correct inference and propounding theories.

It is, therefore, respectfully proposed that the scope of the examinations would be beneficially amended if one division of the syllabus were replaced by a section designed exclusively for developing the examinees' reasoning powers. Approach to the same objective would also be facilitated if candidates received tuition by a compulsory course, which would be carefully planned to foster independence of thought.

I submit, with due deference, that such methods should have a direct influence in promoting subjective thinking and correct reasoning; and although my proposals are criticisms of the Association's education policy, they are offered with full recognition of N.A.L.G.O.'s achievements in this respect.

Yours faithfully,

LESLIE N. BROOK.

Nalgo Building Society

Free Advertising Service

CATFORD (S.E.).—Modern freehold semi-detached residence. Brick garage, 2 reception rooms, 3 bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom, separate w.c., etc. Electricity; points (gas and electric) in principal rooms. Two rooms in parquet flooring. Recently redecorated completely. Nice garden. No road charges. Price £975 or offer.—Apply S. Beadley, 47, Casslee Road, Catford, S.E.6.

TORQUAY (Devon).—Modern terrace house, 2 reception rooms, 3 bedrooms, bathroom and all modern conveniences. Electric light. Splendid condition. Excellent position overlooking Tor Bay in quiet neighbourhood. Price £530.—Apply C. Johnson, 84, Main Avenue, Sarsin, Torquay.

TWICKENHAM (Middlesex).— Freehold detached bungalow. Brick built, 5 rooms, kitchen, scullery, bathroom, w.c., etc. Plot 32 ft. by 115 ft. No road charges. Space for garage. Price £750.—Apply Lisieux, 90, Nelson Road, Whitton, Twickenham.

HENDON, (N.W.4.)—Freehold semi-detached house, good residential district. 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, breakfast room with ideal boiler, scullery, bathroom and w.c., all tiled, and maid's w.c. Hall and dining room panelled and beamed. Brick garage, nice garden. No road charges. Completely redecorated, price £1,295. Or with Austin 12, player-piano, radiogram, curtains, stair carpet, and curtain fitments, £1,475 lowest. Phone for appointment, Hendon 8300.

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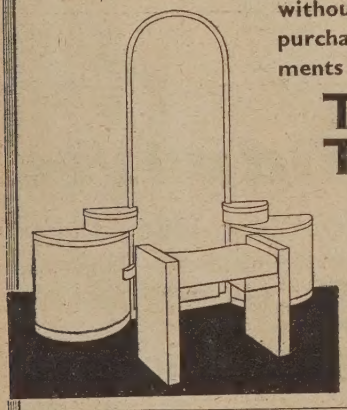

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All Mankind's Concern

Weekly Allowances

In the year 1932 a member was compulsorily retired from the service owing to his age (70) and was given a very small allowance from the Council supplemented by the Old Age Pension of 10s. per week. After payment of rent, etc., the member was left with only two or three shillings for the maintenance of himself, his wife and son aged 32 years. The son is quite incapable of following any employment owing to his weak mental condition. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund of the Association made a substantial weekly grant in this case to enable the member to provide for himself, his wife and son. Unfortunately the member died a month or two ago, leaving his widow and son totally unprovided for, and the Fund is, of course, continuing to assist in this very deserving case.

A widow aged 69 years has been left practically unprovided for with the exception of a small house in which she resides with her son aged 32 years. The son is unfit to follow employment as he is epileptic. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund is making a weekly allowance in this case towards the support of the widow and her son.

Lump Sum Grants

A member aged 44 years with a wife and two children aged 19 and 8 years dependent upon him found himself in financial difficulties owing to the serious illness of his wife which resulted in an operation. The member has exhausted his resources owing to the abnormal expenditure incurred and the local Branch appealed to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund for assistance. A grant has been made to enable the member to pay outstanding accounts received from the doctor, etc.

A single member aged 22 years incurred considerable medical expenditure owing to an injury to his arm which necessitated skilful treatment by a specialist. The member resides with his parents and three younger brothers and sisters—his father is unemployed. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund made a grant in this case towards the medical expenditure incurred.

Loans

A young member aged 23 years with a wife dependent upon him has been absent from employment for four months owing to illness during which time he spent four weeks in hospital. After he was discharged he was strongly advised to obtain convalescent home treatment for a period of one month. In view of the nature of the member's illness he is compelled to provide a special diet which is proving very expensive and a considerable drain on the member's resources. He is gradually getting behind with the payment of rent, etc., and the branch, therefore, applied to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund for a grant and small loan to enable him to settle the accounts outstanding.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBSCRIPTION OF 2s. 6d. TO THE BENEVOLENT AND ORPHAN FUND FOR THIS YEAR? IF NOT PLEASE DO SO WITHOUT DELAY.

Chicago is Prepared

"Has your city a Disaster Plan?" asks the Chief of Police in a News Letter published in Chicago.

Recent floods found mid-western cities in the United States unprepared to cope with the emergencies arising from such disaster.

Public officials throughout the country are now focusing their attention on carefully planned emergency programmes to be called into effect during fire, flood, earthquake, tornado, pestilence, etc. Always playing a vital rôle in times of stress, many American police departments are endeavouring to enlist other public units and civic organisations in this disaster programme.

Vacancies at CROYDE BAY and CAYTON BAY holiday centres

from

18th—25th September

Apply for booking form to:
The Secretary, Special Activities Dept., N.A.L.G.O., 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1

The KING and QUEEN at Newport

Newport Branch Ball

The Newport (Mon.) Branch organised a grand civic ball at the Town Hall, Newport on the occasion of the visit of The Majesties the King and Queen to Newport on July 14, 1937. Their Majesties' visit was for the purpose of cutting the first sod of Newport's new civic centre.

The branch organised the ball for His Worship the Mayor (Alderman I. C. Vincent), and the proceeds, amounting to over £14, were devoted to local charities.

The town hall was beautifully illuminated and decorated with palms and flowers lent by the Parks Committee, and about 150 guests spent a most enjoyable evening dancing in what was described as a veritable fairyland.

Among those present were the Mayor and Mayoress, the president of the Newport Branch (Mr. J. A. Essery), and many prominent citizens of the town.

Bright and Breezy

What a bright and breezy publication is the official magazine of the Wolverhampton Branch entitled "Civic." Here are a few extracts from the latest issue.

. . . . "An American jockey croons the latest popular songs to his mount during the race. The frantic efforts of the animal to get out of earshot have already resulted in several sensational victories."

. . . . "He has achieved success who has lived well, loved much, and laughed often; who has earned the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children; who has filled his niche and accomplished his task and left the world better than he found it."

. . . . "Golfer: 'Would you mind if I played through? I've just heard that my wife has been taken seriously ill.'"

calling all Midwives

Since the passing of the Midwives' Act, 1936, a large number of midwives have become eligible for National Health Insurance. The NALGO Approved Society caters for

Local Government Officers

So join your OWN Society. A form of application may be obtained from your own branch of Nalgo or from the

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